

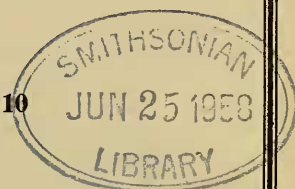
OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 517

Rejection of the proposal for the validation under the Plenary Powers of the emendation to *Theridion* of the generic name *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805 ; use of the above Powers (i) to validate the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as published in the combination *Aranea picta*, (ii) to designate the species so named to be the type species of *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, and (iii) to suppress the generic name *Phyllonethis* Thorell, 1869 (Class Arachnida)

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 517

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OPINION 517

REJECTION OF THE PROPOSAL FOR THE VALIDATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF THE EMENDATION TO "THERIDIUM" OF THE GENERIC NAME "THERIDIUM" WALCKENAER, 1805 ; USE OF THE ABOVE POWERS (i) TO VALIDATE THE SPECIFIC NAME "PICTA" WALCKENAER, 1802, AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION "ARANEA PICTA" ; (ii) TO DESIGNATE THE SPECIES SO NAMED TO BE THE TYPE SPECIES OF "THERIDIUM" WALCKENAER, 1805, (iii) TO SUPPRESS THE GENERIC NAME "PHYLLONETHIS" THORELL, 1869, (CLASS ARACHNIDA)

RULING :—(1) The proposal that the spelling of the generic name *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805 (Class Arachnida) be emended under the Plenary Powers to *Theridium* is hereby rejected.

(2) The following action is hereby taken under the Plenary Powers :—

- (a) The specific name *picta* Razoumowsky, 1789, as published in the combination *Aranea picta*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy.
- (b) All selections of type species for the nominal genus *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside and the nominal species *Aranea picta* Walckenaer, 1802 as validated under (a) above, is hereby designated to be the type species of the foregoing genus.
- (c) The generic name *Phyllonethis* Thorell, 1869, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(3) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805 (gender : neuter) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b) above: *Aranea picta* Walckenaer, 1802) (Name No. 1272) ;
- (b) *Enoplognatha* Pavesi (P.), 1880 (gender : feminine) (type species by selection by Pavesi (P.), 1880 (in the paper published later in the same year specified in paragraph 75 of the present *Opinion*) : *Theridion mandibulare* Lucas, 1846) (Name No. 1273).

(4) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) *picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as published in the combination *Aranea picta* (specific name of type species of *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805) (Name No. 1520) ;
- (b) *mandibulare* Lucas, 1846, as published in the combination *Theridion mandibulare* (specific name of type species of *Enoplognatha* Pavesi (P.), 1880) (Name No. 1521).
- (c) *ovatus* Clerck, [1758], as published in the combination *Araneus ovatus* (Name No. 1522) ;
- (d) *sisyphius* Clerck, [1758], as published in the combination *Araneus sisyphius* (Name No. 1523) .

(5) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) *Phyllonethis* Thorell, 1869, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1)(c) above (Name No. 1158) ;

(b) *Theridium* Leach (W.E.), 1824 (an Invalid Emendation of *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805) (Name No. 1159) ;

(c) *Theridio* Simon, 1864 (an Invalid Emendation of *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805) (Name No. 1160).

(6) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Number 527 :—

picta Razoumowsky, 1789, as published in the combination *Aranea picta*, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1)(a) above.

(7) The under-mentioned family-group name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* with the Name Number 234 :—

THERIDIIDAE (correction of THERIDIIDES) Sundevall, 1833 (type genus : *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805).

(8) The under-mentioned family-group names are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

(a) THERIDIIDES Sundevall, 1833 (type genus : *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805) (an Invalid Original Spelling for THERIDIIDAE) (Name No. 272) ;

(b) THERIDIONIDAE Simon, 1881 (type genus : *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805) (an Erroneous Subsequent Spelling for THERIDIIDAE) (Name No. 273).

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 13th September 1955 Dr. Herbert W. Levi (*University of Wisconsin, Department of Zoology, Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A.*) addressed a preliminary enquiry to the Office of the Commission on the question of the possible use by the Commission of its Plenary Powers for the purpose of providing a valid basis for the continued employment of the generic name names *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, and *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880 (Class Arachnida), in their accustomed sense. This led to the submission to the Commission by Dr. Levi of the following application on 21st October 1955 :—

Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to preserve the accustomed usage of the generic names “*Theridion*” Walckenaer, 1805 and “*Enoplognatha*” Pavesi, 1880 (Class Arachnida, Order Araneae)

By HERBERT W. LEVI

(*University of Wisconsin, Department of Zoology,
Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A.*)

The principal purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to designate a type species in harmony with accustomed usage for the genus *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805 (*Tabl. Aran.* : 72) (Class Arachnida, Order Araneae). This genus is the type genus of the family THERIDIIDAE, and this makes it important that there should be no change in the concept represented by the generic name *Theridion*, for any such change would lead to serious confusion, more especially in view of the fact that in the present case (as shown below) the application of the normal provisions of the *Règles* would involve a particularly objectionable transfer of the name *Theridion* to an allied genus now known as *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880. As currently interpreted, *Theridion* Walckenaer is a large genus containing about four hundred described species, many of which are common.

2. Walckenaer did not designate or indicate a type species for his genus *Theridion* but from the originally included species Latreille in 1810 (*Consid. gén. Anim. Crust. Arch. Ins.* : 424, 144) selected a species placed in this genus by Walckenaer as *Theridion redimitum* (i.e. *Araneus redimitus* Clerck, [1758], *Aran. svec.* : 59, Pl. 3, Tab. 9) to be the type

species of this genus. The above nominal species is accepted by arachnologists as representing the same taxon as that represented by the nominal species *Araneus ovatus* Clerck, [1758] (*ibid.* : 58, Pl. 3, Tab. 8) and it is by this name that the species concerned is currently known.

3. In 1869 (*Nova Acta Soc. Sci. upsal.* (3) 7(1)(No. 5) : 90) Thorell noticed that *Araneus ovatus* Clerck differed in various respects from the other species then (and now) placed in the genus *Theridion*. Overlooking Latreille's prior selection of this species to be the type species of *Theridion* Walckenaer, he erected a new genus *Phyllonethis*, of which he designated the above species as type species. At the same time he selected *Araneus sisyphius* Clerck, [1758] (*Aran. svec.* : 54) as the type species of *Theridion* Walckenaer.

4. In 1880 Pavesi (P.) established another genus to which he gave the name *Enoplognatha*. This name was published twice in the year 1880. The relevant references are :—(a) *Rend. reale Istituto Lombardo di Scienze e Lettero* (2)13 : 192 ; (b) *Ann. Mus. civico Stor. nat. Genova* 15 (for 1879—1880) : 325. No type species was designated in the first of these papers but in the second Pavesi selected as the type species, the first of the species cited as belonging to this genus in the earlier paper. The species so selected was *Theridion mandibulare* Lucas, 1846 (*Explor. Algér.*, Zool. 2(1) : 260, pl. 17, fig. 1). In 1950 (*Paper Alabama Mus. nat. Hist.* No. 30 : 23) Archer, after a study of the male genitalia, pointed out that *Araneus ovatus* Clerck belongs to the genus *Enoplognatha*. The observations that *Araneus ovatus* Clerck (*Theridion ovatum* (Clerck)) has a colulus, that the male has modified chelicerae and that the female has a tooth on the posterior margin of the chelicerae, substantiates the evidence brought forward by Thorell and Archer.

5. Accordingly, the generic name *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880, is a subjective junior synonym of *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805. The most serious confusion would however result if under the normal provisions of the *Règles* the name *Theridion* were to be transferred to the genus now known as *Enoplognatha* and some new name had to be found for the genus which for one hundred and fifty years has been known by the name *Theridion*. It is to prevent these serious results that the International Commission is now asked to use its Plenary Powers to designate for *Theridion* Walckenaer a type species which will make it possible to continue to use this generic name in its accustomed sense. Of the species included in the genus *Theridion* by Walckenaer in 1805 the one most suitable for designation as the type species of that genus is that which in 1802 (*Faune paris.* 2 : 207) he had described under the name *Aranea picta*. That name is however, invalid, being a junior primary homonym of *Aranea picta* Razoumowsky, 1789 (*Hist. nat.*

Jorat. : 242). The oldest available name for this species is *Theridion ornatum* Hahn, 1831 (*Mon. Spinnen* (6) : pl. 3, fig. c♀). The proposal now submitted is therefore that *Theridion ornatum* Hahn should be designated as the type species of the genus *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805. At the same time the Commission is asked to preserve the well-known generic name *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880, by using its Plenary Powers to suppress its senior subjective synonym *Phyllonethis* Thorell, 1869, a name which has hardly been used at all.

6. As the present proposal will involve the placing of the foregoing names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, it is necessary at this point to note that in 1824 Leach (W.E.) (*Ency. brit. Suppl.* 4th—6th Eds. 1(2) : 438) emended the spelling of the name *Theridion* to *Theridium*, without, however, giving his grounds for so doing. In North America the spelling *Theridium* was used by the majority of authors during the nineteenth century, although Hentz, who described many species in the fifties, used *Theridion*. Since 1912 the spelling *Theridion* has been consistently used by all authors both in the United States and in South America. In Germany Wiehle in 1937 used the spelling *Theridium* but in his more recent papers he has used *Theridion*. Tullgrun used the spelling *Theridium* in comments on Swedish Theridiids in the 1940's. This spelling is also used by Bonnet (1955, *Bibl. Aran.*, vol. 2). The great French arachnologist Simon used *Theridion* seventy years ago. Roewer has always used this spelling and has employed it in his recent *Katalog*. The same spelling has been used also by Berland and by Locket & Millidge in 1953 in vol. 2 of their *British Spiders*. To sum up, the spelling *Theridium* is certainly not in general use, although individual authors have used this spelling in recent years. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology at Copenhagen, 1953 (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 43, Decision 71) the spelling *Theridion* is, it should be noted, a Valid Original Spelling and is therefore not subject to emendation.

7. The genus *Theridion* Walckenaer is, as has already been noted (paragraph 1 above), the type genus of the family THERIDIIDAE. According to Kaston (B.J.) in his "Family Names of the Order Araneae" (1938, *Amer. Midland Nat.* 19(3) : 645) the genus *Theridion* Walckenaer was first made the base of a family-group name by Sundevall (J.C.) in 1833 (*Conspectus Arachnidum* : 15). The form in which Sundevall published this name was THERIDIIDES.

8. The following are the recommendations which for the reasons set forth above are now submitted for the consideration of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, namely that it should :—

- (1) use its Plenary Powers (a) to set aside all selections of type species for the genus *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, made prior to the

Ruling now asked for, (b) having done so, to designate *Theridion ornatum* Hahn, 1831, to be the type species of the foregoing genus, and (c) to suppress the generic name *Phyllonethis* Thorell, 1869, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;

(2) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

(a) *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805 (gender : neuter) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers under (1)(b) above : *Theridion ornatum* Hahn, 1831) ;

(b) *Enoplognatha* Pavesi (P.), 1880 (gender : feminine) (type species, by designation by Pavesi (1880) : *Theridion mandibulare* Lucas, 1846) ;

(3) place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

(a) *ornatum* Hahn, 1831, as published in the combination *Theridion ornatum* (specific name of type species of *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805) ;

(b) *mandibulare* Lucas, 1846, as published in the combination *Theridion mandibulare* (specific name of type species of *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880) ;

(c) *ovatus* Clerck, [1758], as published in the combination *Araneus ovatus* ;

(d) *sisyphius* Clerck, [1758], as published in the combination *Araneus sisypheus* ;

(4) place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

(a) *Phyllonethis* Thorell, 1869, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1)(c) above ;

(b) *Theridium* Leach (W.E.), 1824 (an Invalid Emendation of *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805) ;

- (5) place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology*:—*picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as published in the combination *Aranea picta* (a junior primary homonym of *picta* Razoumowsky, 1789, as published in the foregoing combination) :
- (6) place the under-mentioned family-group name on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology*:—THERIDIIDAE (correction of THERIDIIDES) Sundevall, 1833 (type genus: *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805) ;
- (7) place the under-mentioned family-group name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology*:—THERIDIIDES Sundevall, 1833 (type genus: *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805) (an Invalid Original Spelling for THERIDIIDAE).

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of Dr. Levi's application : Upon the receipt of Dr. Levi's preliminary enquiry, the question of providing a valid basis for the continued employment of the generic names *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, and *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880 (Class Arachnida), in their accustomed sense was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1008.

3. Publication of Dr. Levi's application : Dr. Levi's application was sent to the printer on 30th November 1955 and was published on 12th June 1956 in Part 1 of Volume 12 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Levi, 1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **12** : 27—30).

4. Issue of Public Notices regarding the possible use of the Plenary Powers for the purposes specified in Dr. Levi's application : Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

of its Plenary Powers for the purposes specified in Dr. Levi's application was given on 12th June 1956 (a) in Part 1 of Volume 12 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Dr. Levi's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition such Notice was given to four general zoological serial publications.

5. Comments Received : The Prescribed Six-Month Waiting Period following publication in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* expired in the present case on 12th December 1956 and not long thereafter a Voting Paper was prepared for the consideration of the Commission. By that date five comments had been received in regard to the present case. Of the specialists who so expressed their views four (all resident in the United States) supported the action proposed in the present application and one (resident in Germany) expressed opposition thereto. The communications so received are reproduced in the immediately following paragraphs.

6. Support for Dr. Levi's application received from Harriet E. Frizzell (Rolla, Missouri, U.S.A.) : On 28th November 1956 Mrs. Harriet E. Frizzell (*Rolla, Missouri, U.S.A.*)¹ addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in support of Dr. Levi's application (Frizzell, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 92) :—

I wish to support Dr. Herbert W. Levi's petition in regard to clarifying the nomenclature of *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha*. Dr. Levi's proposals include :—

- (a) Suppression of the generic name *Phyllonethis* Thorell, 1869, with *T. ovatum* as type species. *Theridion ovatum* (Clerck) has recently been discovered to belong to *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880, a well established genus in arachnid literature ;
- (b) Retention of the original spelling of *Theridion* Walckenaer.

¹ For a later communication received from this specialist see paragraph 43 of the present *Opinion*.

7. Support for Dr. Levi's application received from B. J. Kaston (Teachers College of Connecticut, New Britain, Connecticut, U.S.A.): On 28th December 1956 Professor B. J. Kaston (*Teachers College of Connecticut, New Britain, Connecticut, U.S.A.*)² addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in support of Dr. Levi's application (Kaston, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 92):—

I have just received from Dr. Levi a copy of his proposal regarding the preservation of the generic names *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, and *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880. I wish to state that I endorse his recommendations whole-heartedly, and hope that the powers that be will see fit to act favorably upon them.

I wish also to state that I do not approve of the change in spelling from *Theridion* to *Theridium*, even though my good friend Dr. Bonnet of Toulouse suggests that it should be changed.

8. Support for Dr. Levi's application received from Vincent D. Roth (Yuma, Arizona, U.S.A.): On 3rd January 1957 Dr. Vincent D. Roth (*Yuma, Arizona, U.S.A.*)³ addressed the following note to the Office of the Commission in support of Dr. Levi's application (Roth, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 92):—

I am in support of Dr. Herbert W. Levi's petition to preserve the current usage of the generic names *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha*. I agree entirely with his recommendations as given in his paper in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. In addition, I feel that the original spelling *Theridion* should be used in preference to the proposed emendation *Theridium* since the former has been utilized consistently to a greater extent in arachnology.

9. Support for Dr. Levi's application received from Allan F. Archer (Union University, Jackson, Tennessee, U.S.A.): On 3rd January 1957 Dr. Allan F. Archer (*Union University, Jackson, Tennessee, U.S.A.*)⁴ addressed the following note to the

² For a later communication received from this specialist see paragraph 50 of the present *Opinion*.

³ For a later communication received from this specialist see paragraph 61 of the present *Opinion*.

⁴ For a later communication received from this specialist see paragraph 32 of the present *Opinion*.

Office of the Commission in support of Dr. Levi's application (Archer, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 92) :—

As an arachnologist I want to indicate herewith my support of the petition to preserve the accustomed usage of the generic names *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, and *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880.

10. Objection to Dr. Levi's application received from Otto Kraus (Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft, Frankfurt a.M., Germany) : On 16th July 1956 Dr. Otto Kraus (*Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft, Frankfurt a.M., Germany*)⁵ addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in which he expressed his objection to Dr. Levi's application (Kraus, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 95) :—

Stellungnahme zu dem vorgeschlagenen Verfahren :

(1) Der Name *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, soll unter allen Umständen beibehalten, die Emendation *Theridium* Leach, 1824, soll unterdrückt werden.

(2) *Theridion* im alten Sinne ist eine sehr artenreiche Gattung (mehrere hundert Arten). Nachdem bereits frühere Autoren kleinere Gruppen von diesem Komplex generisch abgetrennt hatten, wurde vor allem durch Archer (1947, 1950) die Aufteilung weiter vorwärts getrieben, der weitere Gattungsnamen (z.B. *Allotheridion*, *Parasteatoda* und andere) einführte. Regelgemäss ist hierbei der alte Name *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805 (s. str.) auf diejenige Gruppe zu beziehen, bei der die genotypische Art (*Araneus redimitus* Clerck, 1757) verblieben ist. Archer ist auch durchaus korrekt in diesem Sinne verfahren (1950 : 23).

(3) Die Gattung *Theridion* Walckenaer im strengen Sinn enthält hierdurch nur noch wenige Arten. Dies ist jedoch nach unserer Ansicht kein Grund, dem Namen durch Veränderung des Genotypus einen anderen Sinn zu geben und ihn so für den bisherigen "*Theridion*"-Komplex zu erhalten, dessen Aufteilung im Gange ist. Wir erinnern in diesem Zusammenhang an ähnliche Verhältnisse bei Gattungsnamen wie *Helix* oder *Mus*.

⁵ For a later communication received from this specialist see paragraph 51 of the present *Opinion*.

(4) *Enoplognatha Pavesi* 1880a ist nach Archer (1950 : 23) jüngerer, subjektives Synonym von *Theridion* (s. str.). Wir halten den Namen *Enoplognatha* bei weitem nicht für so wichtig und bekannt, als dass zu seiner Erhaltung eine Suspension der Regeln gerechtfertigt wäre.

POSTSCRIPT (dated 31st January 1957) :

Abschliessend kahn ich Ihnen noch mitteilen, dass Herr Prof. Dr. C. Fr. Roewer (Bremen) mich ermächtigt, hier Ihnen mitzuteilen, dass er meine Objections Wort für Wort unterstützt. Prof. Roewer ist Ihnen sicher als einer der führenden Arachnologen bekannt.

11. Two minor proposals added in and two corrections noted on, the Voting Paper prepared in the present case : On 14th January 1957 the Secretary prepared the Voting Paper (paragraph 12 below) for submission to the Commission in the present case and, in doing so, added two notes, in the first of which (Note 5) he gave particulars of two minor additional proposals which it was desired to submit under the "Completeness-of-Opinion" Rule, while in the second (Note 6) he drew attention to two small corrections which required to be made in the application as published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. The notes so added were as follows :—

5. Two minor additional proposals : Attention is drawn to two minor omissions which it is now proposed should be made good :—(1) *Theridio* Simon, 1864 (Invalid Emendation) should be placed on the *Official Index* ; (2) The Erroneous Subsequent Spelling THERIDIONIDAE Simon, 1881, should be placed on the *Official Index*.

6. Two Minor Corrections : The specific name of the type species of *Enoplognatha Pavesi* was published as *mandibulare* and not as *mandibularis*. The date "1840" given for this name in the *Bulletin* is a misprint for "1846".

12. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(57)10 : On 22nd January 1957 a Voting Paper (V.P.(57)10) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the generic name *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805 (Class Arachnida), as set out in points (1) to (7) in paragraph 8 on pages 19 and 30 in Volume 12 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the

paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*] subject (a) to the two minor additions specified in Note 5, and (b) to the two minor corrections specified in Note 6" [the text of both of which has been given in paragraph 11 of the present *Opinion*].

13. Receipt of comments from eleven specialists during the fortnight immediately following the issue of Voting Paper V.P.(57)10 : In the fortnight immediately following the issue of Voting Paper V.P.(57)10 comments on this case were received from eleven specialists (United Kingdom, four ; U.S.A., two ; Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Norway, one each). Of these all except one supported the action recommended by the applicant. The communications so received are reproduced in the immediately following paragraphs.

14. Support for Dr. Levi's application received from Clarence J. Goodnight (Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, U.S.A.) : On 20th January 1957 Dr. Clarence J. Goodnight (*Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, U.S.A.*)⁶ addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in support of Dr. Levi's application (Goodnight, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 93) :—

I would like to support Dr. Levi's proposal to preserve the accustomed usage of the generic names *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha*. I believe this would cause less confusion than to change them according to strict interpretations of the Law of Priority.

15. Support for Dr. Levi's application received from T. H. Savory (London) : On 21st January 1957 Mr. T. H. Savory (*London*)⁷ addressed the following note to the Office of the Commission in support of Dr. Levi's application (Savory, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 93) :—

This is to say that I support Dr. H. W. Levi's petition to preserve the current use of *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha*.

⁶ For a later communication received from this specialist see paragraph 45 of the present *Opinion*.

⁷ For a later communication received from this specialist see paragraph 62 of the present *Opinion*.

16. Support for Dr. Levi's application received from Hans Tambs-Lyche (Norway) : On 22nd January Dr. Tambs-Lyche (Norway)⁸ addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in support of Dr. Levi's application (Tambs-Lyche, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 93) :

I fully support the application to designate *Theridion ornatum* Hahn, 1831, as type species of the genus *Theridion*. There can, I think, be no doubt that the confusion arising from a normal application of the *Règles* would be a very serious one, and one that by no means ought to be avoided.

As to the suppression of Thorell's generic name *Phyllonethis*, I feel that it would be very inconvenient to change the name for a genus containing many species, but on the other hand it ought to be considered that the two cases do not conform. There will in the *Phyllonethis/Enoplognatha* case be no question of transfer of a well-known name from one genus to another. I therefore doubt if reasons are strong enough for the suspension of the normal application of the *Règles* in that case.

As to the *Theridion/Theridium* question, I support the usage of the original spelling *Theridion*, presuming that Dr. Levi is right in stating that the original spelling is to be considered valid under the Copenhagen Decisions.

17. Support for Dr. Levi's application received from J. E. Hull (Durham, England) : On 24th January 1957 Dr. J. E. Hull (Durham, England)⁹ addressed the following note to the Office of the Commission in support of Dr. Levi's application (Hull, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 93) :—

With regard to the application concerning the status of the names *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha*, I wish to inform you that I am entirely in agreement with all the proposals.

⁸ For a later communication received from this specialist see paragraph 65 of the present *Opinion*.

⁹ For a later communication received from this specialist see paragraph 49 of the present *Opinion*.

18. Support for Dr. Levi's application received from Harald Nemenz (Vienna, Austria) : On 25th January 1957 Dr. Harald Nemenz (*Vienna, Austria*)¹⁰ addressed the following note to the Office of the Commission in support of Dr. Levi's application (Nemenz, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 93) :—

I readily support Dr. Levi's petition to preserve the current usage of the generic name *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha*. Further, I would prefer the spelling *Theridion* although *Theridium* may be more correct as the former is much more often used and appears also in the recent *Katalog* by Roewer, the most important compilation of the last years.

19. Support for Dr. Levi's application received from Jens Braendegård (Copenhagen, Denmark) : On 28th January 1957 Dr. Jens Braendegård (*Copenhagen, Denmark*)¹¹ addressed the following note to the Office of the Commission in support of Dr. Levi's application (Braendegård, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 94) :—

I would appreciate the spelling *Theridion* because it is the most used spelling, and I support the petition to preserve the current usage of the generic names *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha* proposed by Dr. Herbert Levi.

20. Support for Dr. Levi's application received from Walter Hackman (Museum Zoologicum Universitatis, Helsinki) : On 28th January 1957 Dr. Walter Hackman (*Museum Zoologicum Universitatis, Helsinki*)¹² addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in support of Dr. Levi's application (Hackman, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 94) :—

Professor Herbert Levi has asked me my opinion regarding his petition for the use of the generic names *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha*.

¹⁰ For a later communication received from this specialist see paragraph 58 of the present *Opinion*.

¹¹ For a later communication received from this specialist see paragraph 34 of the present *Opinion*.

¹² For a later communication received from this specialist see paragraph 46 of the present *Opinion*.

I fully support his petition and I am of the opinion that the genus name *Theridion* should be used in the old wider sense and not for the *Enoplognatha* species, in spite of the fact that the type species for *Theridion* must be changed. I prefer the spelling *Theridion*. The generic name *Enoplognatha* should be preserved and *Theridion ovatum* and some allied species transferred to this genus.

21. Support for Dr. Levi's application received from A. M. Chickering, Albion College, Albion, Michigan, U.S.A.: On 28th January 1957 Dr. A. M. Chickering (*Albion College, Albion, Michigan, U.S.A.*) addressed the following note to the Office of the Commission in support of Dr. Levi's application (Chickering, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 94) :—

This communication is written in support of Dr. Herbert W. Levi's petition to preserve the current usage of the generic names *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, and *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880.

Moreover, it would seem to the writer that it would be better to retain the original spelling even though that is not etymologically as desirable as *Theridium*.

22. Support for Dr. Levi's application received from G. H. Locket (Harrow, Middlesex) and A. F. Millidge (Coulsdon, Surrey): On 1st February 1957 Mr. G. H. Locket (*Harrow, Middlesex*)¹³ addressed on behalf of himself and on behalf of Dr. A. F. Millidge (*Coulsdon, Surrey*)¹⁴ the following note to the Office of the Commission in support of Dr. Levi's application (Locket & Millidge, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 94) :—

We support the petition to preserve the correct usage of the generic names *Theridion* and *Enoplognatha* as set out in the paper by Dr. H. W. Levi and we support the recommendations under paragraph 8 on p. 29 of this paper. We are opposed to the suggestion that the spelling *Theridion* be changed to *Theridium*.

23. Objections to two aspects of the present case received from Pierre Bonnet (Université de Toulouse, France): On 28th January 1957 Professor Pierre Bonnet (*Université de Toulouse, France*)

¹³ For a later communication received from this specialist see paragraph 54 of the present *Opinion*.

¹⁴ For a later communication received from this specialist see paragraph 57 of the present *Opinion*.

addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in which he expressed his objections to two aspects of the present case (Bonnet, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 96—97) :—

Accord sur le maintien des genres “*Theridium*” et “*Enoplognatha*”

En ce qui concerne le fond du problème, le maintien des genres *Theridium* et *Enoplognatha*, je suis entièrement de l’avis de H. W. Levi, dans le sens même où il l’a expliqué. D’ailleurs mon collègue américain m’avout écrit à ce sujet-là, en juillet 1955 et je lui avais donné mon accord pour qu’il présente à la Commission intern. de Nomenclature sa proposition en vue du maintien de ces deux genres.

Mais il a introduit deux faits nouveaux contre lesquels je m’élève avec la plus grande énergie.

Le nouveau type du genre “*Theridium*” est “*pictum*”

(1) Nom de l’espèce-type du genre *Theridium*.

Nous avons convenu avec Mr. Levi que cette espèce-type serait *Theridium pictum*, nommé pour la 1ère fois par Walckenaer en 1802 sous le nom d’*Aranea picta*. Dès 1805, Walckenaer lui-même a placé son *Aranea picta* dans le genre *Theridium* et l’a nommé *Theridion pictum* en 1805, 1841 et 1847. Par la suite, cette espèce a été désignée, jusqu’en 1939, sous ce terme, 211 fois :

103 *Theridion pictum*, 95 *Theridium pictum*, 13 *Steatoda picta* avec un seul synonyme, *Theridion ornatum* Hahn, 1831, qui n’est cité qu’une seule fois par cet auteur.

Il est exact qu’il y a une autre *Aranea picta* décrite en 1789 par Razoumowsky, qui, elle aussi, n’a jamais été nommée qu’une seule fois, lors de sa description par son auteur et que Thorell, en 1873, p. 545, a mis en synonymie d’*Epeira patagiata* (= *Araneus ocellatus* (P.)). Si de 1802 à 1805, il y a en homonymie entre ces deux *Aranea picta*, nul ne s’en est aperçu, il n’y a jamais eu de confusion entre les deux espèces et on peut dire que, pratiquement, cette homonymie n’a jamais existé.

Aussi, je trouve absurde (je dis bien absurde) que l’on vienne aujourd’hui changer le nom de l’espèce *Theridium pictum* (nommé 211 fois dans ce terme spécifique) sous le prétexte de cette homonymie

rétrospective, et remplacer ce nom bien connu, par un terme qui n'a jamais été employé jusqu'ici. Faire cela n'a aucune utilité, ne présente que des inconvénients, et ce n'est véritablement pas sérieux !

J'ai traité de cette question de l'homonymie rétrospective dans l'introduction de "Bibliographia Araneorum", p. 19, dont je vous ai envoyé un separatum. Il faudra au prochain Congrès rédiger une règle dans ce sens, pour s'opposer à ce genre de changement et sans que l'on ait chaque fois à soumettre à la Commission de Nomenclature, les nombreux cas qui peuvent se présenter, comme celui-ci. Je vous ferai d'ailleurs cette proposition dans quelque temps.

En conséquence, je m'oppose au changement de *Theridium pictum* en *Theridium ornatum* et je maintiens que le nouveau type du genre *Theridium* est *pictum* (et non *ornatum*).

Il faut écrire "Theridium"

(2) Graphie du nom de genre *Theridium*. J'avais mis en garde Mr. Herbert W. Levi contre la graphie *Theridion* ; je regrette qu'il n'en ait pas tenu compte et qu'il n'ait pas signalé dans son article mon opposition à cette graphie et les raisons que je lui donnais.

En effet, si *Theridion* a pour lui d'être la graphie originelle (Walckenaer, 1805), cette graphie est contraire au principe de latinisation admis par les *Règles* intern. de Nomenclature (Appendice, paragraphe F) et n'oublions pas que les noms scientifiques des animaux sont des noms latins ou latinisés (Article 3).

La désinence *ion* doit donc se latiniser en *ium*. Il s'agit là d'ailleurs d'une mesure générale ; en aranéologie, de la même façon que nous écrivons *Zodarium*, *Chieracanthium*, *Myrmecium*, etc., nous devons écrire aussi *Theridium*. Il n'est pas possible, en Nomenclature d'admettre deux poids et deux mesures !

Il vaut remarquer aussi que la désinence latine *on* (qui peut aussi exister : *Neon*, *Sason*, *Saperdon*) est du genre masculin. Quand un genre est du neutre (comme *Theridium*, *Zodarium*, etc.) il doit obligatoirement se terminer par *um*.

D'ailleurs, à l'heure actuelle, contrairement à ce qui dit H. W. Levi, il y a plus d'auteurs qui écrivent *Theridium* que *Theridion*. Si, jusqu'à nos jours, les auteurs de langue anglaise ou française ont surtout graphié *Theridion*, tous les auteurs de l'école allemande ont employé

Theridium (Scandinavie, Europe centrale, Italie, Balkans, Russie, et cela malgré l'influence considérable de notre grand Simon). Et lorsqu'un auteur comme Thorell, qui était un savant helléniste et latiniste, a décidé que la graphie correcte était *Theridium*, on ne doit plus aller contre sa décision, à moins de donner une explication grammaticale pour démontrer qu'il s'est trompé.

Non, *Theridion* présente une faute de translittération et doit être changé en *Theridium*, suivant le libellé de l'article 19 qui prévoit que " l'orthographe originelle d'un nom doit être rectifiée s'il présente une faute de transcription, d'orthographe ou d'impression ".

24. Review of the present case by the Secretary on 6th February 1957 and consequent withdrawal of Voting Paper V.P.(57)10 relating thereto in order to permit of a further examination of the issues involved : On 6th February 1957 the present case was reviewed by the Secretary in the light of the comments which had been received since the issue a fortnight earlier of Voting Paper V.P.(57)10 (paragraphs 14—23 above) and, in particular, the twofold objection raised by Professor Bonnet (paragraph 23 above), each part of which, if it were to be met, would involve the use by the Commission of its Plenary Powers. The conclusion reached by Mr. Hemming was that, despite the late receipt of Professor Bonnet's objections—for which Professor Bonnet expressed regret—the issues which he thus raised were such that they required to be given consideration by the Commission before taking a decision on the application submitted by Dr. Levi. Accordingly, as a first step, Mr. Hemming, as Secretary, on the date specified above executed a Minute directing the withdrawal of the Voting Paper referred to above in order to permit of the consideration of the issues newly raised by Professor Bonnet.

25. Arrangements made by the Secretary to minimise the delay resulting from the withdrawal of Voting Paper V.P.(57)10 : Simultaneously with the withdrawal of Voting Paper V.P.(57)10 consideration was given by the Secretary as to the action to be taken to minimise the delay resulting from the postponement of a decision by the Commission in this case. The conclusion reached by the Secretary was that the best course would be to arrange for the publication of Professor Bonnet's communication at the earliest possible moment and for the publication therewith of a formal Public Notice of the possible use of the Plenary Powers in relation to the two supplementary questions raised by Professor

Bonnet. Mr. Hemming at once prepared a brief note on which to base the required Public Notices and that note, with Professor Bonnet's communication, was thereupon sent to the printer with a request that it should be given all possible priority. The two documents were published on 29th March 1957 in Double-Part 2/3 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. The communication submitted by Professor Bonnet has been reproduced in paragraph 23 above; that by Mr. Hemming was as follows (Hemming, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 98):—

Use of the Commission's Plenary Powers involved in the counter-proposals on two points involved in Dr. Herbert W. Levi's application regarding the generic name "Theridion" Walckenaer, 1805 (Class Arachnida) submitted by Professor Pierre Bonnet

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature)

In the letter dated 28th January 1957, reproduced on pages 96 to 97 of the present Part of the *Bulletin*, Professor Pierre Bonnet (*Université de Toulouse*), while supporting the general purpose of the application relating to the generic name *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805 (Class Arachnida) submitted by Dr. Herbert W. Levi (*University of Wisconsin*) (1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **12** : 27—30), puts forward counter-proposals on the two following points as to which he advocates:—

- (a) The acceptance of the emendation *Theridium* in place of the Original Spelling *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805;
- (b) The acceptance, as the specific name for the species recommended by Dr. Levi to be designated as the type species of the genus *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, of the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as published in the combination *Aranea picta*, notwithstanding the fact that that name is a junior homonym of the specific name *picta* Razoumowsky, 1789, as published in the combination *Aranea picta*.

2. Attention is here drawn to the fact that the acceptance by the International Commission of either of the foregoing proposals would involve the use of its Plenary Powers. Accordingly, Public Notice of the possible use of the above Powers for the foregoing purposes is being given forthwith in the prescribed manner. The Notice so required to be given in the present serial will be found on page 34 of the present part.

26. Issue of Public Notices regarding the possible use of the Plenary Powers in respect of the supplementary matters raised by Professor Bonnet : Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in respect of the supplementary matters raised by Professor Pierre Bonnet in his communication dated 28th January 1957 (that is, (a) the possible validation of the emendation to *Theridium* of *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, and (b) the possible validation of the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as published in the combination *Aranea picta*) was given on 29th March 1957 (a) in Double-Part 2/3 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part containing Professor Bonnet's communication and Mr. Hemming's note on the scope of the action under the Plenary Powers thereby involved) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition such Notice was given to four general zoological serial publications.

27. Submission to the Commission by the Secretary on 11th February 1957 of a Report on the decision to withdraw Voting Paper V.P.(57)10 and on the action consequential thereon subsequently taken : On 6th February 1957 the Secretary prepared a Report on the decision that he had taken to withdraw Voting Paper V.P.(57)10 and on the action consequential thereon which he had already taken or which he had set in motion. The Report so prepared was submitted to the Commission on 11th February 1957. It was as follows :—

Withdrawal of Voting Paper V.P.(57)10 relating to the generic name "Theridion" Walckenaer, 1805 (Class Arachnida) in order to permit of the examination of a new aspect of the problem just come to light

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature)

I have to report that within the last few days I have received a communication from Professor Pierre Bonnet (*Université de Toulouse*) in regard to the application relating to the generic name *Theridion*

Walckenaer, 1805 (Class Arachnida) (Levi, 1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 12 : 27—30) which has led me to the view that it is necessary temporarily to withdraw Voting Paper V.P.(57)10 in regard to the above case issued on 22nd January last. The circumstances which have led me to this conclusion are set out below.

2. Professor Bonnet raises two points. The first (which is concerned with the relative merits of the Original Spelling *Theridion* and the emendation *Theridium*) is expressly raised in the application and, as regards this, it appears to me that the material available is sufficient to enable the Commission to reach an appropriate decision. Professor Bonnet's second point is concerned with the specific name to be accepted for the type species of the genus *Theridion* Walckenaer. In this connection it will be recalled that the principal point made by Dr. Levi in his application was that the acceptance as the type species of this genus of the species which is the type species under the *Règles* would lead to the most serious confusion and that it was desirable therefore that the Commission should use its Plenary Powers to designate as the type species a species in harmony with accustomed usage. Dr. Levi pointed out that the species most suitable for such designation is *Aranea picta* Walckenaer, 1802, but that this name for the species in question was not available, being invalid as a junior homonym of *Aranea picta* Razoumowsky, 1789. Dr. Levi recommended therefore that the next available name, *Theridion ornatum* Hahn, 1831, should be accepted and that that nominal species should be designated as the type species of *Theridion*. In the letter now received Professor Bonnet, while fully supporting the general purpose of Dr. Levi's application, dissents strongly from the suggestion that the name *ornatum* Hahn should be substituted for the name *picta* Walckenaer and recommends that the latter name should be validated by the Commission under its Plenary Powers. Professor Bonnet supports this view by the following arguments :—(i) The name *Aranea picta* Razoumowsky, 1789, has been used only once since it was first published 170 years ago and no inconvenience of any kind would result from the suppression of this name under the Plenary Powers ; (ii) that on the other hand the name *Aranea picta* Walckenaer, 1802, was used continuously up to the year 1939 and has appeared in the literature no less than 211 times.

3. Notwithstanding its late receipt, which Professor Bonnet explains was due to preoccupation with seeing his book through the press and for which he expresses regret, the point discussed in paragraph 2 above appears to me to justify the postponement of a decision on this case in order to permit of the examination of the novel issue so raised. I accordingly propose (a) immediately to publish Professor Bonnet's communication in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* and (b) to issue a questionnaire to the specialists who have commented on this application and to any others who may be likely to be interested

asking (i) for information as to the relative usage of the specific names *picta* Walckenaer and *ornatum* Hahn since 1939 and (ii) for their views on the advisability of validating the name *picta* Walckenaer by suppressing the earlier homonym *picta* Razoumowsky. I propose at the same time to seek the views of the specialists concerned on the other question raised by Professor Bonnet, namely, the relative acceptability of the spellings *Theridion* and *Theridium* for the generic name here in question.

4. Both the proposals now submitted by Professor Bonnet would require for their acceptance the use by the Commission of its Plenary Powers. For this purpose the issue of Public Notices in the prescribed manner will be necessary and a further Waiting Period of six months will be involved. In order that this six-month period may start to run as soon as possible—thereby minimising the further delay involved in the consideration of the present case—I propose to issue the prescribed Public Notices concurrently with the publication of Professor Bonnet's communication in the *Bulletin*.

28. Consultation with specialists on the issues raised by Professor Bonnet : Having withdrawn Voting Paper V.P.(57)10 for the purpose of permitting an examination of the two issues raised by Professor Bonnet in his communication of 28th January 1957, Mr. Hemming drew up a questionnaire to specialists asking them to furnish the Commission with their views on each of the above issues and in addition to advise generally on the proposal originally submitted in this case by Dr. Levi. This Questionnaire, which was prepared on 6th February 1957, was issued on 22nd February 1957. It was as follows :—

Two problems relating to the generic name " Theridion "
Walckenaer, 1805 (Class Arachnida)

A Request to Specialists for Advice

Note by the Secretary

The advice of interested specialists is sought both generally upon the issues involved in connection with an application now before the International Commission in regard to the generic name *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805 (Class Arachnida) and in particular in regard to two aspects of the problem involved in this case.

I. Name to be accepted for the type species of
"Theridion" Walckenaer

2. The application in the present case was submitted to the International Commission by Dr. Herbert W. Levi (*University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A.*) and was published in 1956 (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **12** : 27—30). The principal point in this application was concerned with the species to be accepted as the type species of the genus *Theridion* Walckenaer. Dr. Levi explained that the most serious confusion would ensue if the species which is in fact the type species of this genus under the *Règles* were to be accepted as such and he accordingly recommended that the Commission should use its Plenary Powers to designate as the type species of this genus a species in harmony with long-established and current usage. Dr. Levi stated that the most suitable species for this purpose was the nominal species *Aranea picta* Walckenaer, 1802. Unfortunately, however, that name was invalid as it was a junior homonym of the earlier name *Aranea picta* Razoumowsky, 1789. Dr. Levi then explained that the oldest available name for the taxon which Walckenaer had called *Aranea picta* in 1802 was *Theridion ornatum* Hahn, 1831. He accordingly recommended that the above taxon under the name *Theridion ornatum* Hahn should be designated by the Commission under its Plenary Powers to be the type species of the genus *Theridion* Walckenaer.

3. Professor Pierre Bonnet (*Université de Toulouse*) has now notified the Office of the Commission that, while he is in full agreement with Dr. Levi as to the need for providing a valid basis for the current use of the generic name *Theridion*, he is strongly opposed to the substitution of the name *Theridion ornatum* Hahn for the name *Aranea picta* Walckenaer. On this subject Professor Bonnet makes the following points :—

- (a) The specific name *picta* Razoumowsky, 1789, as published in the combination *Aranea picta*, is not in use as the name for any species. He adds that it was listed by Thorell (1893 : 545) as a junior synonym of *Epeira patagiata* (= *Aranea ocellata* Linnaeus, 1758)
- (b) The name *Aranea picta* Razoumowsky has since its publication in 1789 been used on one occasion only, whereas the name *Aranea picta* Walckenaer, 1802, was used continuously from its publication in 1802 up to 1939, occurring in the literature of that period no less than 211 times.

4. Professor Bonnett concludes therefore that not the slightest inconvenience would be occasioned if the Commission were to suppress the specific name *picta* Razoumowsky, 1789. On the contrary, there

are, in his opinion, very strong reasons in favour of such action by the Commission, for by so doing, the Commission would render available for the species here in question the long-established and well-known specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802.

5. On receiving Professor Bonnet's proposal on the above matter I immediately consulted Professor Levi who has now replied (letter dated 14th February 1957) as follows :—

I favor Professor Bonnet's idea to include a suppression of *Aranea picta* Razoumowsky in order to preserve the name *Aranea picta* Walckenaer, 1805 (= *Theridion picta* (Walckenaer)). *Theridion picta* (Walckenaer) has been used much more commonly than *T. ornatum* Hahn.

II. The emendation "Theridium" versus the original spelling "Theridion" Walckenaer, 1805

6. A secondary question involved in the present case is whether the Original Spelling *Theridion* as used by Walckenaer in 1802 should be emended to the spelling *Theridium*. This subject was discussed by Dr. Levi in his application. After pointing out that the emendation *Theridium* had been introduced by Leach in 1824, Dr. Levi described as follows (paragraph 6) the position as regards usage in this matter : "In North America the spelling *Theridium* was used by the majority of authors during the nineteenth century, although Hentz, who described many species in the fifties, used *Theridion*. Since 1912 the spelling *Theridion* has been consistently used by all authors both in the United States and in South America. In Germany Wiehle in 1937 used the spelling *Theridium* but in his more recent papers he has used *Theridion*. Tullgren used the spelling *Theridium* in comments on Swedish Theridiids in the 1940's. This spelling is also used by Bonnet (1955, *Bibl. Aran.*, vol. 2). The great French arachnologist Simon used *Theridion* seventy years ago. Roewer has always used this spelling and has employed it in his recent *Katalog*. The same spelling has been used also by Berland and by Locket & Millidge in 1953 in vol. 2 of their *British Spiders*. To sum up, the spelling *Theridium* is certainly not in general use, although individual authors have used this spelling in recent years. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology at Copenhagen, 1953 (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 43, Decision 71) the spelling *Theridion* is, it should be noted, a Valid Original Spelling and is therefore not subject to emendation." In the concluding paragraph of his application Dr. Levi recommended that this generic name in the Original Spelling *Theridion* should be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* and that the Invalid Emendation *Theridium* Leach, 1824, should be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*.

7. Professor Bonnet, however, strongly advocates the acceptance of the emendation *Theridium* and the rejection of the original spelling *Theridion* as being incorrectly formed. On the question of usage, Professor Bonnet writes as follows :—“ D’ailleurs, a l’heure actuelle, contrairement à ce que dit H. W. Levi, il y a plus d’auteurs qui écrivent *Theridium* que *Theridion*. Si, jusqu’ à nos jours, les auteurs de langue anglaise ou française ont surtout graphié *Theridion*, tous les auteurs de l’école allemande ont employé *Theridium* (Scandinavie, Europe centrale, Italie, Balkans, Russie, et cela malgré l’influence considérable de notre grand Simon). Et lorsqu’un auteur comme Thorell, qui était un savant helleniste et latiniste, a décidé que la graphie correcte était *Theridium*, on ne doit plus aller contre sa décision, à moins de donner une explication grammaticale pour démontrer qu’il s’est trompé.

Non, *Theridion* présente une faute de translittération et doit être changé en *Theridium*, suivant le libellé de l’article 19 qui prévoit que “ l’orthographe originelle d’un nom doit être rectifiée s’il présente une faute de transcription, d’orthographe ou d’impression ”.

III. The position under the “ Règles ”

8. It will be convenient at this point to take note what is the position under the *Règles* in regard to the two questions discussed above, this being a necessary preliminary to the consideration of the action which would be needed to give effect to the counter-proposals submitted by Professor Bonnet. The position in regard to this matter may be summarised as follows :—

- (i) Name for the species proposed in Dr. Levi’s application to be designated under the Plenary Powers to be the type species of the genus “ *Theridion* ” Walckenaer, 1805 :

In order to secure a valid basis for the use, as advocated by Professor Bonnet, and as supported by Professor Levi, of the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as published in the combination *Aranea picta*, it would be necessary for the Commission to use its Plenary Powers to suppress for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy the specific name *picta* Razoumowsky, 1789, as published in the same combination, for that name at present invalidates the same name as published by Walckenaer, 1802.

(ii) The relative status of the Original Spelling "Theridion" and the Emendation "Theridium" :

In considering questions relating to the emendation of names it is necessary to put aside Article 19 as it existed prior to the Copenhagen Congress of 1953 and to consider only the revised provisions then substituted by that Congress (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 43—44, Decision 71). Under those provisions an Original Spelling is to be accepted as a Valid Original Spelling, unless there is "clear evidence in the original publication that this spelling was based on an inadvertent error, such as a *lapsus* or a copyist's or printer's error". In the present case there was nothing in Walckenaer's work which could be held to show that the spelling *Theridion* was an inadvertent error. Accordingly, under the Copenhagen provision quoted above the spelling *Theridion* as used by Walckenaer is a Valid Original Spelling. If therefore the Commission were to decide in favour of the emendation *Theridium* (as recommended by Professor Bonnet), it would be necessary for it, when dealing with the present case, to use its Plenary Powers to validate that Emendation as against the Original Spelling *Theridion*.

IV. The issues involved

9. It will be seen from the particulars given in the preceding paragraph that in each case the object sought by Professor Bonnet is one which would involve the use by the Commission of its Plenary Powers. It follows therefore that the decision to be taken on these matters will necessarily turn mainly upon the question of usage and the wishes expressed by specialists in the group in question. It is for the purpose of eliciting information that the present paper has been prepared for circulation to specialists for opinion and advice. (The present paper is being submitted to all specialists who have so far expressed views on this case in communications addressed to the Office of the Commission and in addition also to other specialists in the group who, it is thought, might be interested. It is for this latter reason that in the Questionnaire set out in the immediately following paragraph a question (Question (3)) has been added for the purpose of obtaining an expression of opinion on the merits of the general purpose of the proposal submitted by Dr. Levi without prejudice to whatever view may be held on the two subordinate, though important, questions with which the Questionnaire is primarily concerned.)

V. Questions on which the advice of specialists is now sought

10. **A Request to Specialists for advice** : In the light of the particulars given in the preceding paragraphs, specialists are invited to furnish this Office for the information of the Commission with answers to the following questions :—

Question (1) (question of the validation of the specific name “*picta*” (“*Aranea*”) Walckenaer, 1802) :

- (a) Are you in favour of the Commission using its Plenary Powers to validate the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as published in the combination *Aranea picta* (by suppressing the earlier homonym *picta* Razoumowsky, 1789, as published in the same combination) ?

OR

- (b) Are you in favour of the permanent rejection of the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802 (*Aranea*) (as will be necessary in the absence of action by the Commission under (a) above) and therefore of the acceptance for the species concerned of the specific name *ornatum* Hahn, 1831, as published in the combination *Theridion ornatum* ?

Question (2) (question of the relative acceptability of the Original Spelling “*Theridion*” Walckenaer, 1805, and of the Emendation “*Theridium*” Leach, 1824) :

- (a) Are you in favour of the use by the Commission of its Plenary Powers to validate the emendation to *Theridium* of the generic name *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805 ?

OR

- (b) Are you in favour of the acceptance of the Original Spelling *Theridion* for the generic name published with this spelling by Walckenaer in 1805 ?

Question (3) (general character of the proposals submitted by Dr. Herbert W. Levi in the present case) :

Apart from the special points dealt with in Questions (1) and (2) above, are you :—

- (a) in favour of the general objects sought in the application submitted by Dr. Herbert W. Levi,

OR

- (b) opposed to those objects, being of the opinion that the present is a case where the Rules should be strictly applied in the usual manner ?

11. It is hoped that specialists will furnish answers to the above questions as soon as possible. These should be addressed to the Secretary to the Commission (address : 28 Park Village East, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1, England).

29. Specialists to whom the Questionnaire of 6th February was issued : In the first instance the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 was issued to all those specialists who up to that date had addressed communications to the Office of the Commission in regard to the present case. Later, the names of other specialists who might be interested in the issues raised by Professor Bonnet were ascertained and copies of the Questionnaire were issued to them also. Ultimately, the number of specialists to whom the Questionnaire was sent amounted to forty-six (46). The specialists so consulted were the following :—

Alphabetical list of the specialists to whom the Questionnaire regarding the " Theridion " case was issued in February 1957 or whose views thereon were otherwise ascertained

Allan F. Archer (*Union University, Jackson, Tennessee, U.S.A.*)

Robert D. Barnes (*Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.*)

A. de Barros Machado (*Laboratorio de Biologia, Dundo, Angola*)

L. Berland (*Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris*)

- A. D. Blest (*University College, London*)
Pierre Bonnet (*Université de Toulouse, France*)
Jens Braendegård (*Copenhagen, Denmark*)
Rudolf Braun (*Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz, Germany*)
W. S. Bristowe (*Tunbridge Wells, England*)
E. Browning (*British Museum (Natural History), London*)
R. V. Chamberlain (*University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A.*)
A. M. Chickering (*Albion College, Albion, Michigan, U.S.A.*)
D. J. Clark (*British Museum (Natural History), London*)
J. L. Cloudsley-Thompson (*King's College, University of London*)
Jacques Denis (*Correspondent du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris*)
E. Duffey (*The Nature Conservancy, Norwich, Norfolk*)
G. Owen Evans (*British Museum (Natural History), London*)
Louis Fage (*Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris*)
R. R. Forster (*Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*)
Mrs. Harriet E. Frizzell (*Rolla, Missouri, U.S.A.*)
Willis J. Gertsch (*The American Museum of Natural History, New York, U.S.A.*)
Clarence J. Goodnight (*Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, U.S.A.*)
Walter Hackman (*Museum Zoologicum Universitatis, Helsingfors, Finland*)
Erich M. Hering (*Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany*)
A. Holm (*Zoologiska Institutionen, Uppsala, Sweden*)
H. Homann (*Gottingen, Germany*)
J. E. Hull (*Rowlands Gill, Co. Durham, England*)
A. Kaestner (*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany*)
B. J. Kaston (*Teachers College of Connecticut, New Britain, Connecticut, U.S.A.*)
Otto Kraus (*Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg, Frankfurt a.M., Germany*)
R. F. Lawrence (*Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, Union of S. Africa*)

Herbert W. Levi (*The University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A.*)

G. H. Locket (*Harrow School, Harrow, England*)

B. J. Marples (*University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand*)

F. Miller (*Vysoká Skola Zemendelská, Brno, Czechoslovakia*)

A. F. Millidge (*Coulsdon, Surrey, England*)

Harald Nemenz (*Zoologisches Institut der Universität, Vienna, Austria*)

Edwin Nørgaard (*Risskov, Denmark*)

C. Fr. Roewer (*Übersee-Museums, Bremen, Germany*)

Vincent D. Roth (*Arizona Experimental Station, Yuma, Arizona, U.S.A.*)

T. H. Savory (*London, England*)

Günter E. W. Schmidt (*Forschungsstation für Tierernährung Bosingfled-Waldfrieden (Lippe), Germany*)

R. H. N. Smithers (*The National Museums of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia*)

Hans Tambs-Lyche (*Espegrend, Norway*)

A. Tullgren (*Experimentalfältet, Sweden*)

Hermann Wiehle (*Dessau, Germany*)

30. Replies received to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :

Replies to the Questionnaire were received from thirty-five (35) specialists and in addition three (3) other specialists (including Professor Bonnet) had previously furnished statements of their views on the questions raised in the Questionnaire. Altogether, therefore, the views of thirty-eight (38) out of the forty-six (46) specialists to whom the Questionnaire was issued were obtained. In the greater number of cases the specialists who replied gave answers to each of the three questions submitted, but in some cases views were expressed only on some of those questions. The views on these issues expressed prior to the issue of the Questionnaire by Dr. A. M. Chickering and Professor Pierre Bonnet have already been reproduced in paragraphs 21 and 23 of the present *Opinion*. The remaining statements, arranged alphabetically by reference to the names of the specialists concerned, are reproduced in the immediately following paragraphs (paragraphs 31-66).

31. Comment on certain aspects of the present application submitted by D. A. Kaestner (Direktor, Zoologisches Museum, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) On 30th January 1957 Professor D. A. Kaestner (*Direktor, Zoologisches Museum, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*) addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission commenting on certain aspects of the proposal submitted in the present case :—

Hiermit gestatte ich mir, Ihnen mitzuteilen, dass ich es für ausserordentlich erwünscht halte, dass die Genus-Namen *Theridium* und *Enoplognatha* in die *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology (Araneae)* aufgenommen werden. Die Gründe dafür sind im *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* aufgeführt. Die Schreibung *Theridium* halte ich für besser als *Theridion*.

32. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Allan F. Archer (Union University, Jackson, Tennessee, U.S.A.) : On 2nd March 1957 there was received in the Office of the Commission a marked copy of the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 from Dr. Allan F. Archer (*Union University, Jackson, Tennessee, U.S.A.*)¹⁵ indicating that he favoured course (b) (rejection of *picta* Walckenaer) as regards Question (1) and course (b) (acceptance of Original Spelling *Theridion*) as regards Question (2). In answer to Question (3), Dr. Archer indicated that he was in favour of the general objects sought in Dr. Levi's application.

33. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Robert D. Barnes (Biology Department, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.) : On 4th March 1957 there was received in the Office of the Commission the following letter from Dr. Robert D. Barnes (*Biology Department, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.*) in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

I am in favour of the Commission using its Plenary Powers to validate the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802. (Question 1 (a).)

¹⁵ For an earlier communication received from this specialist see paragraph 9 of the present *Opinion*.

I am in favour of the acceptance of the Original Spelling *Theridion* for the generic name published with this spelling by Walckenaer in 1805. (Question 2 (b).)

I am in favour of the general objects sought in the application submitted by Dr. Herbert Levi. (Question 3(a).)

34. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Jens Braendegård (Copenhagen, Denmark) : On 27th March 1957 Dr. Jens Braendegård (*Copenhagen, Denmark*)¹⁶ returned to the Office of the Commission a marked copy of the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 indicating that he favoured course (a) (acceptance of *picta* Walckenaer) as regards Question (1) and course (b) (acceptance of Original Spelling *Theridion*) as regards Question (2). In answer to Question (3), Dr. Braendegård indicated that he was in favour of the general objects sought in Dr. Levi's application.

35. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Rudolf Braun (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz, Germany) : On 15th May 1957 Dr. Rodolf Braun (*Johannes Gutenberg Universität, Mainz, Germany*) addressed the following note to the Office of the Commission in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

Ich möchte mich dem Antrag von Dr. Levi anschliessen und für Beibehaltung von *Theridion* (nicht *Theridium*) Walckenaer, 1805, statt *Enoplognatha Pavesi*, 1880, plädieren.

36. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from W. S. Bristowe (Tunbridge Wells, England) : On 3rd March 1957 Dr. W. S. Bristowe (*Tunbridge Wells, England*) addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

My answers to the questions listed in your circular are as follows :

Question (1) : (a) Yes ; (b) No.

Question (2) : (a) No ; (b) Yes.

Question (3) : (a) Yes ; (b) No.

¹⁶ For an earlier communication received from this specialist see paragraph 19 of the present *Opinion*.

As regards (2) I accept *Theridion* for the reasons stated by you in para. 8 (ii). If "savants hellenistes et latinistes" were to go through all the generic names, conflicts between original spellings and usage on the one hand and classical scholars' verdicts on orthodoxy would multiply quite unnecessarily and to a tiresome extent.

37. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from D. J. Clark (British Museum (Natural History), London) : On 27th February 1957 Dr. D. J. Clark (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

My answers to your questions are set out below :

Question (1) (question of the validation of the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802) : I am entirely in favour of the Commission using its Plenary Powers to validate the specific name *picta* Walckenaer 1802, and the suppression of the earlier homonym *picta* Razoumowsky, 1789.

Question (2) (question of the relative acceptability of the Original Spelling *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, and of the Emendation *Theridium* Leach, 1824) : I am in favour of the acceptance of the Original Spelling *Theridion* for the generic name published with this spelling by Walckenaer in 1805.

Question (3) (general character of the proposals submitted by Dr. Herbert W. Levi in the present case) : I am in favour of the general objects sought in the application submitted by Dr. Levi, and agree with him that undoubted confusion would ensue in future literature if the species name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802, were suppressed, and the little known name *ornatum* Hahn, 1831, substituted. On the question of the spelling *Theridion*. I believe that Professor Bonnet's views, although interesting, are not of sufficient importance to justify substituting the spelling *Theridium* for the long established and well known spelling *Theridion*. As Walckenaer's original spelling *Theridion* is already considered valid, I believe this should be adhered to.

38. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from J. L. Cloudsley-Thompson (University of London, King's College, Department of Zoology): On 8th March 1957 Dr. J. L. Cloudsley-Thompson (*University of London, King's College, Department of Zoology*) addressed the following note to the Office of the Commission in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

Thank you for your letter. I am in favour of the following :—

1(a) validating *picta* Walckenaer, 1802 ; 2(b) Original Spelling *Theridium* ; 3(a) Dr. Levi's objects.

39. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Jacques Denis (Correspondant, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris): On 4th March 1957 Dr. Jacques Denis (*Correspondant, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris*) addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

Please find hereafter my answers to the questions for which you seek my advice :—

Question (1) : I am in favour of (a).

Question (2) : I think it advisable to validate the emendation to *Theridium* of the generic name *Theridium* Walckenaer, *Theridium* being more in accordance with Latin terminations. Such a remark is valid for other genera with similar endings, such as *Zodarium*, *Megamyrmeceum*, etc.

Question (3) : Concerning the proposals submitted by Dr. Herbert Levi, I agree with the suppression of the generic name *Phyllonethis* and with the preservation of the now current usage of the generic names *Theridium* and *Enoplognatha* ; if this is not done, great confusion will occur in nomenclature.

40. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from E. Duffey (The Nature Conservancy, Norwich, England): On 14th March 1957 Dr. E. Duffey (*The Nature Conservancy, Norwich*,

England) addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

I do not think it is necessary for me to go into any detail about the application submitted by Dr. Levi and I am noting my comments as follows :—

Question (1) : I am in favour of the Commission using its Plenary Powers to validate the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as published in the combination *Aranea picta*.

Question (2) : I am in favour of the acceptance of the original spelling *Theridion* for the generic name published with this spelling by Walckenaer in 1805.

Question (3) : I am in favour of the general objects sought in the application submitted by Dr. Levi.

41. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Louis Fage (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris) : On 19th February 1957 Dr. Levi (the applicant in the present case) transmitted to the Office of the Commission the following note from Professor Louis Fage (*Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris*) in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

Tous mes remerciements pour l'envoi le votre travail. Tout a fait d'accord pour *Theridion* Walckenaer et non pour *Theridium*.

42. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from R. R. Forster (Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.) : On 15th February 1957 Dr. R. R. Forster (*Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) addressed the following note to the Office of the Commission in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

I favour the retention of the original spelling of *Theridion* Walckenaer.

With reference to the suggestions made by Bonnet that *Aranea picta* Razoumowsky be suppressed in order to preserve the name *Theridion picta* (Walckenaer) I would express agreement.

43. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Harriet Frizzell (Rolla, Missouri, U.S.A.): On 28th February 1957 Mrs. Harriet Frizzell (*Rolla, Missouri, U.S.A.*)¹⁷ returned to the Office of the Commission a marked copy of the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 indicating that she favoured course (a) (validation of *picta* Walckenaer) as regards Question (1) and course (b) (acceptance of the Original Spelling *Theridion*) as regards Question (2). In answer to Question (3), Mrs. Frizzell indicated that she was in favour of the general objects sought in Dr. Levi's application.

44. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Willis J. Gertsch (American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.): On 18th February 1957 Dr. Willis J. Gertsch (*American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.*) addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957:—

I would like to add my voice to those who are in favour of the proposal by Dr. Herbert Levi to retain the generic name *Theridion* in its present usage. It seems to me that stability would best be served by this action since exercise of the Rules in normal fashion would garble the usage of two of our very familiar generic names. I am further in favour of using *Theridion* instead of the etymologically more correct *Theridium* for the reason that the former is well established in our writing habits and has been used by most spider students for a long period. To accomplish this it will be necessary to suppress the name *A. picta* Razoumowsky to permit the continued use of the name *Theridion picta* Walckenaer.

I have discussed this matter with several of my colleagues here in this Museum and find that they all are favorably inclined towards this type of action to preserve well-known names.

45. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Clarence J. Goodnight (Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, U.S.A.): On 6th March 1957 there was received in the Office of

¹⁷ For an earlier communication received from this specialist see paragraph 6 of the present *Opinion*.

the Commission the following letter from Dr. Clarence J. Goodnight (*Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, U.S.A.*)¹⁸ in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

Concerning the first question on the validation of the specific name *picta* (*Aranea*) Walckenaer, 1802, I favour the first alternative (A). That is, that the commission validate the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as published in the combination *Aranea picta*, by suppressing the earlier homonym *picta* Razoumowsky, 1789.

On question (2), I favour the (B) alternative ; that is, that the original spelling *Theridion* be accepted.

On Question (3), I am in favour of alternative (A), the general objects sought in the application of Dr. H. W. Levi.

46. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Walter Hackman (Museum Zoologicum Universitatis, Helsinki) : On 26th February 1957 Dr. Walter Hackman (*Museum Zoologicum Universitatis, Helsinki*)¹⁹ addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

I have been asked to express my opinion about the case of the genus name *Theridion* including two problems taken up by Dr. Herbert Levi and Professor Pierre Bonnet. I have the honour to give the following answers :—

Question (1) (question of the validation of the specific name *picta* (*Aranea*) Walckenaer, 1802) : The alternative (b) is preferred and I accept for the species concerned the name *Theridion ornatum* Hahn, 1831.

Question (2) (the spelling of *Theridion* Walckenaer) : I am in favour of the acceptance of the original spelling *Theridion*.

Question (2) (general character of the proposals submitted by Dr. Herbert W. Levi) : I am fully in favour of the general objects sought in Dr. Herbert W. Levi's application.

¹⁸ For an earlier communication received from this specialist see paragraph 14 of the present *Opinion*.

¹⁹ For an earlier communication received from this specialist see paragraph 20 of the present *Opinion*.

47. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Erich M. Hering (Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) : On 23rd April 1957 there was received in the Office of the Commission the following statement from Professor Erich M. Hering (*Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*) in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 and in which also were included his objections to the proposed emendation to *erythropterus* of the specific name *erythropterus* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Staphylinus*)²⁰, a case of a similar character then before the Commission :—

Es war ein begrüßenswerter Fortschritt, als die "Copenhagen Decisions" im Gegensatz zu der nicht so strengen Formulierung der *Règles* die Möglichkeiten der Emendation zoologischer Namen noch stärker eingeschränkt hatten. Besonders wichtig war dabei der Paragraph 71, der in (1)(a)(I) festlegte, dass ein Irrtum der Transliteration in das lateinische Alphabet kein Recht gibt, die Original-Schreibweise eines Namens zu ändern. In den Sitzungen des Colloquiums, die zur Formulierung der C. D. geführt haben, war immer wieder der richtige Gedanke augedeutet worden, dass philologische Erwägungen erst in zweiter Linie für Aenderungen der Schreibweise zoologischer Namen herangezogen werden sollten. Wie unbedenklich auf anderen Geistesgebieten in dieser Hinsicht vorgegangen wird, zeigt eine auch nur flüchtige Betrachtung der Bildung der allgemein anerkannten Termini in der Medizin.

Wollte jeder Spezialist auf seinem Gebiet die durch falsche Transcription oder Transliteration gebildeten Namen zur Genehmigung der Emendation der International Commission vorschlagen, so bliebe dieser zur Erledigung wichtiger Aufgaben überhaupt keine Zeit mehr, denn : die Zahl der falsch gebildeten Namen ist Legion ! Es kommt hinzu, dass in gewissen Fällen auch verschiedene Klassiker verschiedene Schreibweisen angewendet haben, und dass auch der Philologe manchmal mehr als eine Schreibweise als richtig anerkennen muss. Wie viele Namen, die aus dem Griechischen stammen, sind mit der Original-Endung " -on " beibehalten worden. Es erscheint nicht statthaft, von ihnen nun nur eine oder mehrere, wie *Theridion* zu *Theridium*, zu emendieren, während andere Namen mit der gleichen Endung unverändert bleiben. Dem sprachlich Gebildeten sehen die zahlreichen Namen mit der Endung " -pterix " ebenso abscheulich aus wie etwa " *erythropterus* ". Wenn aber einige Spezialisten auf ihrem Gebiete Aenderungen herbeiführen lassen, die anderen nicht, kommt es in

²⁰ For the application here referred to, see *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 84—88.

kurzer Zeit zu einem Wirrwarr, in dem sich niemand mehr zurechtfindet. Bleibt es beim strikten Verbot der Emendation, und ist die Kommission konsequent, braucht man nur die Original-Beschreibung nachzuschlagen, um zu wissen, wie ein Name richtig zu schreiben ist. Im anderen Falle muss die grosse, dauernd noch steigende Zahl der veröffentlichten *Opinions* durchgesehen werden, wenn man Sicherheit über eine Schreibweise haben will, das bedeutet eine grosse Erschwerung der wissenschaftlichen Arbeit. Durch solch eine Durchlöcherung des Emendation-Verbotes gelangt die rein philologisch motivierte Emendation durch die Hintertür der Kommissions-Entscheidung wieder zu der Stellung, die ihr durch § 71 ff, der C.D. entzogen werden sollte. Die Kommission hat in früheren *Opinions* in 4 Jahrzehnten nur 12 Emendationen genehmigt, im Märzheft des "*Bulletin*" werden deren gleichzeitig schon 3 vorgeschlagen ! Es sei der Kommission bei der Behandlung aller Emendation-Vorschläge zugerufen : "Landgraf, werde hart !"

Die International Commission möge aus den angezeigten Gründen die drei im Titel genannten Vorschläge ablehnen.

48. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from H. Homann (Göttingen, Germany) : On 27th March 1957 there was received in the Office of the Commission a marked copy of the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 from Dr. H. Homann (*Göttingen, Germany*) indicating that he favoured course (b) (rejection of *picta* Walckenaer) as regards Question (1) and course (b) (acceptance of Original Spelling *Theridion*) as regards Question (2). In answer to Question (3), Dr. Homann indicated that he was in favour of the general objects sought in Dr. Levi's application.

49. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from J. E. Hull (Durham, England) : On 25th February Dr. J. E. Hull (*Durham, England*)²¹ returned to the Office of the Commission a marked copy of the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 indicating that he favoured course (b) (rejection of *picta* Walckenaer) as regards Question (1) and course (b) (acceptance of Original Spelling *Theridion*) as regards Question (2). In answer to Question (3), Dr. Hull indicated that he was in favour of the general objects sought in Dr. Levi's application.

²¹ For an earlier communication received from this specialist see paragraph 17 of the present *Opinion*.

50. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from B. J. Kaston (Teachers College of Connecticut, New Britain, Connecticut, U.S.A.) : On 6th March 1957 Professor B. J. Kaston (*Teachers College of Connecticut, New Britain, Connecticut, U.S.A.*)²² addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

Question (1) : I am in favour of validating *picta* Walckenaer, 1802, and suppressing *picta* Razoumowsky, 1789.

Question (2) : I am in favour of the original spelling *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805.

Question (3) : I am in favour of the general objects sought in the application submitted by Dr. Levi.

51. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Otto Kraus (Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft, Frankfurt a.M., Germany and Professor C. Fr. Roewer (Direktor, Ubersee-Museums, Bremen, Germany) : On 5th March 1957 there was received in the Office of the Commission a marked copy of the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 from Dr. Otto Kraus (*Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft, Frankfurt a.M., Germany*)²³ signed jointly by himself and Professor C. Fr. Roewer (*Direktor, Ubersee-Museums, Bremen, Germany*) indicating that they favoured course (b) (rejection of *picta* Walckenaer) as regards Question (1) and course (b) (acceptance of Original Spelling *Theridion*) as regards Question (2). In answer to Question (3), both Dr. Kraus and Professor Roewer indicated that they were not in favour of the general objects sought in Dr. Levi's application.

52. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1956 received from R. F. Lawrence (Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa) : On 14th March 1957 Dr. R. F. Lawrence (*Natal Museum,*

²² For an earlier communication received from this specialist see paragraph 7 of the present *Opinion*.

²³ For an earlier communication received from this specialist see paragraph 10 of the present *Opinion*.

Pietermaritzburg, South Africa) addressed the following note to the Office of the Commission in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

With regard to the Levi vs. Bonnet contretemps, although I side on the whole with Dr. Levi, I have never had the time to take up the intricacies of zoological nomenclature.

53. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Herbert W. Levi (University of Wisconsin, Department of Zoology, Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A.) : On 1st March 1957 there was received in the Office of the Commission a marked copy of the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 from Dr. Herbert W. Levi (*University of Wisconsin, Department of Zoology, Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A.*), the applicant in the present case, indicating that he favoured course (a) (validation of *picta* Walckenaer) as regards Question (1) and course (b) (acceptance of Original Spelling *Theridion*) as regards Question (2).

54. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from G. H. Locket (Harrow, Middlesex) : On 7th March 1957 Mr. G. H. Locket (*Harrow, Middlesex*)²⁴ addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

Question (1) : I am in favour of the Commission using its Plenary Powers to validate the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as published in the combination *Aranea picta* (by suppressing the earlier homonym *picta* Razoumowsky, 1789 as published in the same combination).

Question (2) : I am in favour of the acceptance of the original spelling *Theridion* for the generic name published with this spelling by Walckenaer in 1802.

Question (3) : I am in favour of the general objects sought in the application submitted by Dr. Herbert W. Levi.

²⁴ For an earlier communication received from this specialist see paragraph 22 of the present *Opinion*.

55. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from A. de Barros Machado (Laboratorio de Biologia, Dundo, Angola) : On 9th March 1957 Dr. A. de Barros Machado (*Laboratorio de Biologia, Dundo, Angola*) returned to the Office of the Commission a marked copy of the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 indicating that he favoured course (a) (validation of *picta* Walckenaer) as regards Question (1) and course (a) (validation of emendation *Theridium*) as regards Question (2). In answer to Question (3) Dr. Machado indicated that he was in favour of the general objects sought in Dr. Levi's application.

56. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from B. J. Marples (University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand) : On 25th March 1957 there was received in the Office of the Commission a marked copy of the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 from Dr. B. J. Marples (*University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand*) indicating that he favoured course (a) (validation of *picta* Walckenaer) as regards Question (1) and course (b) (acceptance of the Original Spelling *Theridium*) as regards Question (2). In answer to Question (3), Dr. Marples indicated that he was in favour of the general objects sought in Dr. Levi's application.

57. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from A. F. Millidge (Coulsdon, Surrey) : On 1st March 1957 Mr. A. F. Millidge (*Coulsdon, Surrey*)²⁵ addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

Question (1) (validation of the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802) : I am in favour of (a). The specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802 has been much more commonly in use than the name *ornatum* Hahn, 1831.

Question (2) : (the relative acceptability of the Original Spelling *Theridium* Walckenaer, 1805, and of the Emendation *Theridium* Leach, 1824) : I am in favour of (b). This has been the accepted spelling by

²⁵ For an earlier communication received from this specialist see paragraph 22 of the present *Opinion*.

most arachnologists ; very few have used *Theridium*. It seems to me that little justification exists for changing the Original Spelling in this case. It is very well known, and causes no inconveniences in nomenclature.

Question (3) (general character of the proposals submitted by Dr. Herbert W. Levi) : I am in favour of (a). If the application is not granted, considerable confusion will result in the arachnological nomenclature. This can largely be avoided by the Commission's use of its Plenary Powers to designate *picta* Walckenaer or *ornatum* Hahn (see Question (1)) as the type species of the genus *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805.

58. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February received from Harald Nemenz (Vienna, Austria) : On 9th March 1957 there was received in the Office of the Commission a marked copy of the Questionnaire of 6th February from Dr. Harald Nemenz (*Vienna, Austria*)²⁶ indicating that he favoured course (a) (validation of *picta* Walckenaer) as regards Question (1) and course (b) (acceptance of the Original Spelling *Theridion*) as regards Question (2). In answer to Question (3), Dr. Nemenz indicated that he was in favour of the general objects sought in Dr. Levi's application.

59. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Edwin Nørgaard (Risskov, Denmark) : On 8th March 1957 Dr. Edwin Nørgaard (*Risskov, Denmark*) addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

In reply to your letter I give the following answers to the questions set forth :—

Question (1) : I am in favour of the Commission using its Plenary Powers to validate the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802.

Question (2) : I am in favour of the acceptance of the original spelling *Theridion*.

Question (3) : I am in favour of the general objects sought in the application submitted by Dr. Herbert W. Levi.

²⁶ For an earlier communication received from this specialist see paragraph 18 of the present *Opinion*.

60. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from C. Fr. Roewer (Direktor, Ubersee-Museums, Bremen, Germany) : On 5th March 1957 there was received in the Office of the Commission a marked copy of the Questionnaire of 6th February signed jointly by Dr. Otto Kraus (*Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft, Frankfurt a.M., Germany*) and Professor C. Fr. Roewer (*Direktor, Ubersee-Museums, Bremen, Germany*), the text of which has been given in paragraph 51 above. Professor Roewer, however, made the following observation with regard to Question (2), course (b) (acceptance of the Original Spelling *Theridion*) :—

The original first publication of a zoological name, whether generic or specific, should be valid in every case (if right or false) in order to avoid further orthographical or philological changes or speculations.

61. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Vincent D. Roth (Yuma, Arizona, U.S.A.) : On 22nd March 1957 there was received in the Office of the Commission a marked copy of the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 from Dr. Vincent D. Roth (*Yuma, Arizona, U.S.A.*)²⁷ indicating that he favoured course (a) (validation of *picta* Walckenaer) as regards Question (1) and course (b) (acceptance of the Original Spelling *Theridion*) as regards Question (2). In answer to Question (3), Dr. Roth indicated that he was in favour of the general objects sought in Dr. Levi's application.

62. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from T. H. Savory (London) : On 1st March 1957 there was received in the Office of the Commission a marked copy of the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 from T. H. Savory (*London*)²⁸ indicating that he favoured course (a) (validation of *picta* Walckenaer) as regards Question (1) and course (b) (acceptance of the Original Spelling *Theridion*) as regards Question (2). In answer to Question (3), Dr. Savory indicated that he was in favour of the general objects sought in Dr. Levi's application.

²⁷ For an earlier communication received from this specialist see paragraph 8 of the present *Opinion*.

²⁸ For an earlier communication received from this specialist see paragraph 15 of the present *Opinion*.

63. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Günter Schmidt (Forschungsstation für Tierernährung Bosingfled-Waldfrieden (Lippe), Germany) : There were received in the Office of the Commission two letters, dated 17th February 1957 and 20th March 1957 respectively, from Dr. Günter Schmidt (*Forschungsstation für Tierernährung Bosingfled-Waldfrieden (Lippe), Germany*) in reply to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957. The communications so received were as follows :—

(a) Letter dated 17th February 1957

Ich möchte meinerseits entschieden den Antrag unterstützen, die Namen *Theridion* und *Enoplognatha* im bisher üblich gewesenen Sinne zu gebrauchen, um weitere Verwirrungen in den Benennungen zu vermeiden.

Obleich normalerweise Genusnamen auch dann zu gelten haben, wenn die philologisch inkorrekt gebildet sind, möchte ich im Falle von *Theridion* vorschlagen, die Schreibweise "*Theridium*" (an Stelle von *Theridion*) für gültig zu erklären, und zwar in erster Linie, weil der Familienname THERIDIIDAE nur von *Theridium* abgeleitet werden kann, nicht aber von *Theridion*. Sollte die Schreibweise "*Theridion*" für verbindlich erklärt werden, dann hätte die Familienbezeichnung THERIDIONIDAE zu lauten, wie O. Kraus 1955 bereits folgerichtig schrieb. Es sollte aber die Priorität Sundevals gewahrt werden, und damit auch das nomen THERIDIIDAE. Entsprechendes gilt auch für die Familienbezeichnung ZODARIIDAE, die von *Zodarium* und nicht von *Zodarion* abzuleiten ist.

(b) Letter dated 20th March 1957

Für die Uebersendung Ihres Schreibens v. 22.2.1957 möchte ich Ihnen vielmals danken. Unter Bezugnahme auf mein Schreiben v.17.2.1957 möchte ich die drei Fragen wie folgt beantworten :

1. Ich bin der Meinung, dass *Aranea picta* Razoumowsky, 1789 als Synonym zu *Araneus patagiatus* Cl.1778 zu gelten hat, während *A. picta* Walck. 1802 Genotypus für *Theridion* sein muss.
2. Sollte es ausser Zweifel stehen, dass *Theridion* keinen Druckfehler oder dergl. darstellt, so muss dieser Name, selbst wenn er philologisch unrichtig gebildet sein sollte, für gültig angesehen werden.

3. Die Ansicht Dr. Levi sollte auf jeden Fall einer strikten Befolgung der *Regeln* vorgezogen werden.

Ich bitte um Mitteilung, ob es statthaft ist, die Familienbezeichnung THERIDIIDAE beizubehalten, wenn für das Genus der Name *Theridion* festgelegt wird. Ich war der Ansicht, dass dann die Familie THERIDIIONIDAE lauten müsse. Herr Dr. Levi, mit dem ich in dieser Frage korrespondierte, war sich nicht ganzsicher, ob die Kopenhagener Beschlüsse hier eine eindeutige Klarheit geschaffen haben. Sollte es hierüber zu einer Diskussion kommen, so möchte ich die Familienbezeichnung THERIDIIDAE (anstelle von THERIDIIDES Sund.) die Herr Dr. Levi wählte, unterstützen.

64. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from R. H. Smithers (National Museums of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia) : On 30th March 1957 Dr. R. H. Smithers (*National Museums of Southern Rhodesia*) : addressed the following note to the Office of the Commission in answer to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 :—

I am in favour of the Commission using its Plenary Powers to validate the specific name *picta* Walckenaer and of the acceptance of the original spelling of *Theridion*.

65. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Hans Tambs-Lyche (Norway) : On 2nd March 1957 Dr. Hans Tambs-Lyche (*Norway*) returned to the Office of the Commission a marked copy of the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 indicating that he favoured course (a) (validation of *picta* Walckenaer) as regards Question (1) and course (b) (acceptance of Original Spelling *Theridion*) as regards Question (2). Dr. Tambs-Lyche pointed out in a covering note with regard to Question (1) that in the circumstances now disclosed he now "had no objection against suppressing the name *Aranea picta* Razoumowsky, 1789, as proposed by Dr. Bonnet", this view being different from that given in his letter of 22nd February 1957 which is reproduced in paragraph 16 of the present *Opinion*. In answer to Question (3), Dr. Tambs-Lyche indicated that he was in favour of the general objects sought in Dr. Levi's application.

66. Reply to Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from Hermann Wiehle (Dessau, Germany) : On 15th March 1957 Dr. Hermann Wiehle (*Dessau, Germany*) returned to the Office of the Commission a marked copy of the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 indicating that he favoured course (b) (rejection of *picta* Walckenaer) as regards Question (1) and course (a) (validation of emendation *Theridium*) as regards Question (2). In answer to Question (3), Dr. Wiehle indicated that he was in favour of the general objects sought in Dr. Levi's application.

67. Submission to the Commission by the Secretary in September 1957 of a Report on the replies to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from specialists, together with recommendations as to the action to be taken by the Commission thereon : On 29th September 1957 the Secretary prepared for the consideration of the Commission the following Report, giving particulars of the replies to the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 received from specialists, together with recommendations as to the action to be taken by the Commission in the light of the advice so obtained :—

Dr. Herbert W. Levi's Proposal for the designation under the Plenary Powers of a type species in harmony with accustomed usage for the genus "Theridion" Walckenaer, 1805 (Class Arachnida, Order Araneae)

Resubmission with particulars regarding two supplementary matters and submission of revised proposals

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(*Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*)

In the present paper I resubmit Dr. Herbert W. Levi's proposal for the designation under the Plenary Powers of a type species in harmony with accustomed usage for the genus *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805 (Class Arachnida, Order Araneae), together with proposals on two supplementary points, representations on which were received in this Office after the close of the Prescribed Six-Month Waiting Period

following the publication of the application in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* and indeed after the submission to the Commission of a Voting Paper on this case. It will be recalled that on 6th February 1957 I submitted a paper to the Commission in which I reported the emergence of the two supplementary points in question and explained that in the circumstances I had decided to withdraw the Voting Paper (V.P.(57)10) which had been issued in this case in order to provide an opportunity for the examination, in consultation with specialists, of the two newly disclosed points, before the Commission was asked to vote on the issues involved in the present case.

2. Dr. Levi's original application was published on 12th June 1956 (Levi, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 12 : 27—30). As the possible use of the Plenary Powers was involved in the present case, Public Notice was issued in the prescribed manner and in addition was given to four general zoological serials. The publication of this application and the issue of Public Notices in regard thereto elicited comments from five specialists, of whom four (4) supported Dr. Levi's proposals and one (1) raised objection thereto. The specialists who supported the application were :—(i) Vincent D. Roth (*Yuma, Arizona, U.S.A.*) ; (ii) Allan F. Archer (*Union University, Jackson, Tennessee, U.S.A.*) ; (iii) H. E. Frizzell (Mrs.) (*Rolla, Missouri, U.S.A.*) ; (iv) B. J. Kaston (*Teachers College of Connecticut, New Britain, Connecticut, U.S.A.*). The specialist who opposed Dr. Levi's application was O. Kraus (*Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft, Frankfurt a.M., Germany*).

3. In January 1957 at the close of the Prescribed Six-Month Waiting Period following the publication of the present application in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* I prepared the Voting Paper to be submitted to the Commission in the present case. After giving particulars of the publication of the present application and of the issue of Public Notices in regard thereto and enumerating the comments on this case which had been received from specialists—as set out in paragraph 2 above—I submitted (in Note 5) two minor supplementary proposals which had been inadvertently omitted from the original application and drew attention (in Note 6) to two minor corrections which it was necessary should be made in the application submitted by Dr. Levi. The Notes so submitted were as follows :—

- (5) *Two minor additional proposals* : Attention is drawn to two minor omissions which it is now proposed should be made good :—
 (1) *Theridio* Simon, 1884 (an Invalid Emendation of *Theridion* Walckenaer) should be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* ; (2) the Erroneous Subsequent Spelling THERIDIONIDAE Simon, 1881, should be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology*.

- (6) *Two minor corrections* : The specific name of the type species of the genus *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880 was published as *mandibulare* and not as *mandibularis*. The date "1840" given for this name in the *Bulletin* is a misprint for "1846".

4. The Voting Paper described above, was issued on 22nd January 1957. It was its submission which brought to light the two supplementary issues with which the present paper is mainly concerned. The supplementary issues on question, both of which were raised by Professor Pierre Bonnet, were the following :—

- (1) Should the specific name commonly used for the species proposed to be designated as the type species of the genus *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805 (i.e. the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as published in the combination *Aranea picta*) be validated by the Commission under its Plenary Powers or should that name be rejected in favour of the much less well known name *ornatum* Hahn, 1831, as published in the combination *Theridion ornatum* ?
- (2) Should the emendation to *Theridium* of the generic name *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, be validated by the Commission under its Plenary Powers ?

5. On the first of these questions Professor Bonnet strongly advocated the validation of the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as the specific name for the species proposed to be designated as the type species of the genus here in question, pointing out that the name *picta* Walckenaer had been in continuous use for 138 years up to 1939, having been so employed no less than 211 times. In 1939, however, it was realised that this name was invalid as a junior homonym of *picta* Razoumowsky, 1789, as published in the combination *Aranea picta*. On this discovery the name *picta* Walckenaer had been abandoned by some workers in favour of the later subjective synonym *ornatum* Hahn, 1831, as published in the combination *Theridion ornatum*. Professor Bonnet added that not the slightest inconvenience would be caused by the suppression under the Plenary Powers of the senior homonym *picta* Razoumowsky, that name having appeared in the literature only once during the 170 years which have elapsed since it was first published. On being informed by this Office of Professor Bonnet's proposal, Dr. Levi, the original applicant in this case, intimated that he fully supported the modification of his application in the sense suggested.

6. The second question raised by Professor Bonnet was whether the Original Spelling *Theridion* as used by Walckenaer in 1805 should be emended to the spelling *Theridium*. This subject was discussed by Dr. Levi in his application. After pointing out that the emendation *Theridium* had been introduced by Leach in 1824 Dr. Levi described as follows (paragraph 6) the position as regards usage in this matter : "In North America the spelling *Theridium* was used by the majority of authors during the nineteenth century, although Hentz, who described many species in the 'fifties, used *Theridion*. Since 1912 the spelling *Theridion* has been consistently used by all authors both in the United States and in South America. In Germany Wiehle in 1937 used the spelling *Theridium* but in his more recent papers he has used *Theridion*. Tullgren used the spelling *Theridium* in comments on Swedish Theridiids in the 1940's. This spelling is also used by Bonnet (1955, *Bibl. Aran.* vol. 2). The great French Arachnologist Simon used *Theridion* seventy years ago. Roewer has always used this spelling and has employed it in his recent *Katalog*. The same spelling has been used also by Berland and by Locket & Millidge in 1953 in vol. 2 of their *British Spiders*. To sum up, the spelling *Theridium* is certainly not in general use, although individual authors have used this spelling in recent years. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology at Copenhagen, 1953 (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 43, Decision 71) the spelling *Theridion* is, it should be noted, a Valid Original Spelling and is therefore not subject to emendation." In the concluding paragraph of his application Dr. Levi recommended that this generic name in the Original Spelling *Theridion* should be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* and that the Invalid Emendation *Theridium* Leach, 1824, should be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*.

7. Professor Bonnet, for his part, strongly advocated the acceptance of the emendation *Theridium* and the rejection of the original spelling *Theridion* as being incorrectly formed. On the question of usage, Professor Bonnet wrote as follows :—"D'ailleurs, à l'heure actuelle, contrairement à ce que dit H. W. Levi, il y a plus d'auteurs qui écrivent *Theridium* que *Theridion*. Si jusqu'à nos jours, les auteurs de langue, anglaise ou française ont surtout graphié *Theridion*, tous les auteurs de l'école allemande ont employé *Theridium* (Scandinavie, Europe centrale, Italie, Balkans, Russie, et cela malgré l'influence considérable de notre grand Simon). Et lorsqu'un auteur comme Thorell, qui était un savant helléniste et latiniste, a décidé que la graphie correcte était *Theridium*, on ne doit plus aller contre sa décision, à moins de donner une explication grammaticale pour démontrer qu'il s'est trompé. Non, *Theridion* présente une faute de translittération et doit être changé en *Theridium*, suivant le libellé de l'article 19 qui prévoit que 'l'orthographe originelle d'un nom doit être rectifiée s'il présente une faute de transcription, d'orthographe ou d'impression'."

8. The representations described above led me on 6th February 1957 to issue to the Commission a notice in which I explained the situation which had developed and reported that in consequence I had executed a Minute withdrawing the Voting Paper (V.P.(57)10) issued in this case, in order thereby to permit of the consideration of the issues now for the first time brought to light.

9. Simultaneously with the withdrawal of the foregoing Voting Paper I arranged for the immediate publication in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* of the communication in regard to the foregoing matters received from Professor Bonnet. Further, in view of the fact that each of the proposals submitted by Professor Bonnet would require for their adoption the use by the Commission of its Plenary Powers, I prepared the required Public Notices for issue simultaneously with the publication of the communication referred to above. Professor Bonnet's communication was published on 29th March 1957 (Bonnet, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 96—98), together with a note by myself as Secretary drawing attention to the extent to which the possible use of the Commission's Plenary Powers was involved in Professor Bonnet's proposals (Hemming, 1957, *ibid.* **13** : 98). On the same day the required Public Notices were issued in the prescribed manner.

10. Each of the two points raised by Professor Bonnet were matters which were concerned not with the interpretation of the *Règles* but with questions turning upon the individual judgment of specialists as to the action which it was desirable should be taken by the Commission in the interest of stability in nomenclature. It was evident, therefore, that it was desirable that special efforts should be made to obtain a full and representative sample of the views of specialists as to the nature of the solutions to be adopted by the Commission. Accordingly, at the time of the withdrawal of Voting Paper V.P.(57)10 (paragraph 8 above), I decided to issue a questionnaire to as many active specialists in the group concerned as possible. I immediately entered into communication with certain specialists with a view to ascertaining the names and addresses of specialists to whom the proposed questionnaire might usefully be issued.

11. In drawing up the questionnaire to be issued to specialists I decided to seek answers to three questions ; the first two were concerned with the points specifically raised by Professor Bonnet, namely :— (a) whether it was desirable that the little-known specific name *picta* Razoumowsky, 1789 (*Aranea*) should be suppressed under the Plenary Powers for the purpose of validating for the type species of the genus *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802 (*Aranea*), the name by which it had for so long been known ; (b) whether it was desirable that the Commission should use the foregoing

Powers to validate the emendation to *Theridium* of the generic name published by Walckenaer with the spelling *Theridion*. The third question included in the questionnaire was whether, subject to the solution of the particular problems referred to above, the general objects sought in Dr. Levi's original proposal (the designation for the genus *Theridion* of a type species in harmony with accustomed usage) was considered to be desirable. The text of the questions so submitted in the questionnaire is given in Appendix 1 to the present paper.

12. The consultations described in paragraph 10 above led to the compilation of a list of over forty specialists, to whom the questionnaire described above was issued on 22nd February 1957. The names and addresses of the specialists so consulted, together with those of a few additional specialists whose interest in this matter became known at a somewhat later date are given in Appendix 2 to the present paper²⁹. The total number of names included in the foregoing list amounted ultimately to forty-six. The countries of residence of the specialists so consulted were as follows :—

TABLE 1

List by countries of the specialists consulted on the three questions in connection with the generic name "Theridion" Walckenaer raised in the Questionnaire issued on 22nd February 1957

<i>Country of Residence</i>	<i>Number of Specialists consulted</i>
Angola	1
Austria	1
Czechoslovakia	1
Denmark	2
Finland	1
France	4
Germany	8
New Zealand	1
Norway	1
Southern Rhodesia	1
Sweden	2
Union of S. Africa	1
United Kingdom	11
U.S.A.	11
	—
Total	46

²⁹ This Appendix is not reproduced here because the particulars in question have already been given in paragraph 29 of the present *Opinion*.

13. Replies to all or some of the questions set out in the questionnaire issued on 22nd February 1957 were received from thirty-eight (82 per cent.) of the specialists consulted. The information obtained from the issue of this questionnaire can therefore, in my opinion, be regarded as providing a representative coverage of the opinions of specialists on the problems at issue in the present case.

14. The advice received from specialists in regard to each of the three issues involved in the present case is shown in Appendix 3 to the present paper. The following is a global summary of the advice so furnished :—

TABLE 2

Summary of the advice received from specialists on the three questions in regard to the case of the generic name " *Theridion* " Walckenaer raised in the Questionnaire issued on 22nd February 1957

<i>Question (1)</i> (validation of <i>picta</i> Walckenaer)		<i>Question (2)</i> (spelling <i>Theridion</i> versus <i>Theridium</i>)		<i>Question (3)</i> (whether in favour of general purpose of Dr. Levi's application)	
in favour	against	in favour of Original <i>Theridion</i>	in favour of Emendation <i>Theridium</i>	in favour	against
24	7	32	5	35	2

15. The replies received to the Questionnaire issued on 22nd February 1957 show decisive majorities (1) in favour of the general purpose of Dr. Levi's application (the designation under the Plenary Powers for the genus *Theridion* Walckenaer of a type species in harmony with accustomed usage), (2) in favour of the validation under the same Powers of the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as published in the combination *Aranea picta*, by the suppression of the senior

homonym *picta* Razoumowsky, 1789, as published in the same combination, and (3) in favour of the retention of the Original Spelling *Theridion* for the genus established under that name by Walckenaer in 1805 and the consequent rejection of the proposal for the use of the Plenary Powers for the validation of the emendation of that name to *Theridium*.

16. In these circumstances the proper course appears to be to re-submit Dr. Levi's application adjusted to such extent as is necessary to harmonise it with the replies received to Questionnaire issued on 22nd February 1957 (i.e. by the insertion of a proposal for the validation of the specific name *picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as published in the combination *Aranea picta* and for the designation of the species so named to be the type species of the genus *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805). Dr. Levi's proposals, so adjusted, are set out in Appendix 4 to the present paper.

APPENDIX 1 TO THE SECRETARY'S REPORT OF 29TH SEPTEMBER 1957

Questions relating to the generic name "Theridion" Walckenaer, put to specialists in the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957

[Note: This Appendix is here omitted because the Questions which had appeared in the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 set out in it have been reproduced in paragraph 28 of the present *Opinion*.]

APPENDIX 2 TO THE SECRETARY'S REPORT OF 29TH SEPTEMBER 1957

Alphabetical list of the specialists to whom the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 regarding the "Theridion" case was issued or whose views thereon were otherwise ascertained

[Note: This Appendix is here omitted because the list of the names of the specialists to whom the Questionnaire of 6th February 1957 was issued has been reproduced in paragraph 29 of the present *Opinion*.]

APPENDIX 3 TO THE SECRETARY'S REPORT OF
29TH SEPTEMBER 1957

Analysis of the views of specialists on the "Theridion" problem elicited by the Questionnaire of 22nd February 1957 or otherwise obtained

Question (1)

(question of the validation of the specific name "picta" Walckenaer, 1802 ("Aranea") as the name for the type species of "Theridion" Walckenaer, 1805)

- (a) In favour of validation of the name "picta" Walckenaer, twenty-four (24) specialists :

R. D. Barnes (*U.S.A.*) ; A. de Barros Machado (*Angola*) ; P. Bonnet (*France*) ; Braendegård (*Denmark*) ; W. S. Bristowe (*United Kingdom*) ; D. J. Clark (*United Kingdom*) ; J. L. Cloudsley-Thompson (*United Kingdom*) ; J. Denis (*France*) ; E. Duffey (*United Kingdom*) ; R. R. Forster (*U.S.A.*) ; Mrs. H. E. Frizzell (*U.S.A.*) ; W. J. Gertsch (*U.S.A.*) ; C. J. Goodnight (*U.S.A.*) ; B. J. Kaston (*U.S.A.*) ; H. W. Levi (*U.S.A.*) ; G. H. Locket (*United Kingdom*) ; B. J. Marples (*New Zealand*) ; A. F. Millidge (*United Kingdom*) ; H. Nemenz (*Austria*) ; E. Nørgaard (*Denmark*) ; V. D. Roth (*U.S.A.*) ; T. H. Savory (*United Kingdom*) ; G. E. W. Schmidt (*Germany*) ; H. Tambs-Lyche (*Norway*) ;

- (b) Against the validation of the name "picta" Walckenaer, seven (7) specialists :

A. F. Archer (*U.S.A.*) ; W. Hackman (*Finland*) ; H. Homann (*Germany*) ; J. E. Hull (*United Kingdom*) ; O. Kraus (*Germany*) ; C. Fr. Roewer (*Germany*) ; H. Wiehle (*Germany*) ;

Question (2)

(question of the relative merits of the spellings "Theridion" and the emendation "Theridium")

- (a) In favour of the validation of the Emendation "Theridium", five (5) specialists :

A. de Barros Machado (*Angola*) ; P. Bonnet (*France*) ; J. Denis (*France*) ; A. Kaestner (*Germany*) ; H. Wiehle (*Germany*) ;

(b) Against the validation of the Emendation "Theridium", thirty-two (32) specialists :

A. F. Archer (*U.S.A.*) ; R. D. Barnes (*U.S.A.*) ; J. Braendegård (*Denmark*) ; R. Braun (*Germany*) ; W. S. Bristowe (*United Kingdom*) ; A. M. Chickering (*U.S.A.*) ; D. J. Clark (*United Kingdom*) ; J. L. Cloudsley-Thompson (*United Kingdom*) ; E. Duffey (*United Kingdom*) ; L. Fage (*France*) ; R. R. Forster (*U.S.A.*) ; Mrs. H. E. Frizzell (*U.S.A.*) ; W. J. Gertsch (*U.S.A.*) ; C. J. Goodnight (*U.S.A.*) ; W. Hackman (*Finland*) ; E. M. Hering (*Germany*) ; H. Homann (*Germany*) ; J. E. Hull (*United Kingdom*) ; B. J. Kaston (*U.S.A.*) ; O. Kraus (*Germany*) ; H. W. Levi (*U.S.A.*) ; G. H. Locket (*United Kingdom*) ; B. J. Marples (*New Zealand*) ; A. F. Millidge (*United Kingdom*) ; H. Nemenz (*Austria*) ; E. Nørgaard (*Denmark*) ; C. Fr. Roewer (*Germany*) ; V. D. Roth (*U.S.A.*) ; T. H. Savory (*United Kingdom*) ; G. E. W. Schmidt (*Germany*) ; R. H. N. Smithers (*S. Rhodesia*) ; H. Tambs-Lyche (*Norway*) ;

Question (3)

(general character of proposals submitted by Dr. Levi for the designation for the genus "Theridion" Walckenaer of a type species in harmony with accustomed usage)

(a) In favour of Dr. Levi's proposals, thirty-five (35) specialists :

A. F. Archer (*U.S.A.*) ; R. D. Barnes (*U.S.A.*) ; A. de Barros Machado (*Angola*) ; P. Bonnet (*France*) ; J. Braendegård (*Denmark*) ; R. Braun (*Germany*) ; W. S. Bristowe (*United Kingdom*) ; A. M. Chickering (*U.S.A.*) ; D. J. Clark (*United Kingdom*) ; J. L. Cloudsley-Thompson (*United Kingdom*) ; J. Denis (*France*) ; E. Duffey (*United Kingdom*) ; L. Fage (*France*) ; R. R. Forster (*U.S.A.*) ; Mrs. H. E. Frizzell (*U.S.A.*) ; W. J. Gertsch (*U.S.A.*) ; C. J. Goodnight (*U.S.A.*) ; W. Hackman (*Finland*) ; H. Homann (*Germany*) ; J. E. Hull (*United Kingdom*) ; A. Kaestner (*Germany*) ; B. J. Kaston (*U.S.A.*) ; R. F. Lawrence (*Union of South Africa*) ; H. W. Levi (*U.S.A.*) ; G. H. Locket (*United Kingdom*) ; B. J. Marples (*New Zealand*) ; A. F. Millidge (*United Kingdom*) ; H. Nemenz (*Austria*) ; E. Nørgaard (*Denmark*) ; V. D. Roth (*U.S.A.*) ; T. H. Savory (*United Kingdom*) ; G. E. W. Schmidt (*Germany*) ; R. H. N. Smithers (*Southern Rhodesia*) ; H. Tambs-Lyche (*Norway*) ; H. Wiehle (*Germany*) ;

(b) Against Dr. Levi's proposals, two (2) specialists :

O. Kraus (*Germany*) ; C. Fr. Roewer (*Germany*).

APPENDIX 4 TO THE SECRETARY'S REPORT OF
29TH SEPTEMBER 1957

**Dr. Herbert W. Levi's proposal relating to the generic name
"Theridion" Walckenaer, 1805 (Class Arachnida, Order Araneae)
adjusted in the light of the replies received to the Questionnaire
of 22nd February 1957**

- (1) Rejection of the proposal that the spelling of the generic name *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, be amended under the Plenary Powers to *Theridium*.

- (2) The following action to be taken under the Plenary Powers :—
 - (a) the specific name *picta* Razoumowsky, 1789, as published in the combination *Aranea picta*, to be suppressed for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy ;

 - (b) all selections of type species for the genus *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, made prior to the Ruling now asked for to be set aside and the nominal species *Aranea picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as validated under (a) above to be designated to be the type species of the above genus ;

 - (c) the generic name *Phyllonethis* Thorell, 1869, to be suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

- (3) The under-mentioned generic names to be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—
 - (a) *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805 (gender : neuter) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers in (2)(b) above : *Aranea picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as validated under the Plenary Powers in (2)(a) above) ;

 - (b) *Enoplognatha* Pavesi (P.), 1880, as validated under the Plenary Powers in (1)(c) above (gender : feminine) (type species, by selection by Pavesi (P.), 1880 (in the second paper published in that year) : *Theridion mandibulare* Lucas, 1846).

(4) The under-mentioned specific names to be placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *picta* Walckenaer, 1802, as published in the combination *Aranea picta* and as validated under the Plenary Powers in (2)(a) above (specific name of type species of *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805) ;
- (b) *mandibulare* Lucas, 1846, as published in the combination *Theridion mandibulare* (specific name of type species of *Enoplognatha* Pavesi, 1880) ;
- (c) *ovatus* Clerck, [1758], as published in the combination *Araneus ovatus* ;
- (d) *sisyphius* Clerck, [1758], as published in the combination *Araneus sisypheus*.

(5) The under-mentioned generic names to be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *Phyllonethis* Thorell, 1869, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (2)(c) above ;
- (b) *Theridium* Leach (W.E.), 1824 (an Invalid Emendation of *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805) ;
- (c) *Theridio* Simon, 1884 (an Invalid Emendation of *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805).

(6) The under-mentioned specific name to be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—

- picta* Razoumowsky, 1789, as published in the combination *Aranea picta* and as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (2)(a) above.

(7) The under-mentioned family-group name to be placed on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* :—

- THERIDIIDAE (correction of THERIDIIDES) Sundevall, 1833 (type genus : *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805).

(8) The under-mentioned family-group names to be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology* :—

(a) THERIDIIDES Sundevall, 1833 (type genus : *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805) (an Invalid Original Spelling for THERIDIIDAE) ;

(b) THERIDIONIDAE Simon, 1881 (an Erroneous Subsequent Spelling for THERIDIIDAE).

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

68. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(57)55 : On 11th October 1957 a Voting Paper (V.P.(57)55) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, “ the proposal relating to the generic name *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, and associated names, as set out in Appendix 4 to the paper bearing the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1008 [i.e. in Appendix 4 to the paper reproduced in paragraph 67 of the present *Opinion*] submitted by the Secretary simultaneously with the present Voting Paper.

69. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 11th January 1958.

70. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)55, except the voting on the status to be accorded to the emendation “Theridium ” of the generic name “Theridion ” Walckenaer, 1805 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period the state of the voting on the proposals submitted with Voting Paper

V.P.(57)55, other than the portion relating to the status to be accorded to the emendation *Theridium* of the generic name *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, was as follows :—

- (a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-five (25) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :—*

Holthuis ; Vokes ; Bonnet ; Mayr ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Riley ; do Amaral ; Lemche ; Hering ; Dymond ; Prantl ; Esaki ; Bodenheimer ; Boschma ; Hemming ; Mertens ; Hankó ; Jaczewski ; Miller ; Stoll ; Kühnelt ; Cabrera ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Key ; Tortonese ;

- (b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

- (c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

71. Particulars of the Voting on the request for the rejection of the proposal for the emendation under the Plenary Powers of the generic name “*Theridion*” Walckenaer, 1805, to “*Theridium*” submitted with Voting Paper V.P.(57)55 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period the state of the voting on the request for the rejection of the proposal for the emendation under the Plenary Powers of the generic name *Theridion* Walckenaer, 1805, to *Theridium* was as follows :—

- (a) *In favour of the rejection of the proposal for the emendation to “*Theridium*” of “*Theridion*” Walckenaer, 1805, twenty-two (22) votes) :*

Holthuis ; Vokes ; Mayr ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Riley ; do Amaral ; Lemche ; Hering ; Dymond ; Prantl ; Esaki ; Boschma ; Hemming ; Mertens ; Jaczewski ; Miller ; Stoll ; Kühnelt ; Cabrera ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Key ; Tortonese ;

- (b) *Against the proposal for the rejection of the emendation to "Theridium" of "Theridion" Walckenaer, 1805, three (3) votes :*

Bonnet ; Bodenheimer ; Hankó ;

- (c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

72. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 12th January 1958, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(57)55, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraphs 70 and 71 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in both portions of the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

73. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Opinion" : On 21st January 1958 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(57)55.

74. Original References for Generic and Specific Names : The following are the original references for the generic and specific names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

Enoplognatha Pavesi (P.), 1880, *Rend. real. Inst. Lombardo Sci. Lett.* (2) **13** : 192 [also later in 1880, *Ann. Mus. Stor. nat. Genova* **15** (for 1879—1880) : 325]

mandibulare, Theridion, Lucas, 1846, *Explor. Sci. Algérie, Zool.* **2**(1) : 260, pl. 17, fig. 1

ovatus, Araneus, Clerck, [1758], *Aran. svec.* : 58, pl. 3, Tab. 8

Phyllonethis Thorell, 1869, *Nova Acta K. vet.-Soc. Upsala* (3) **7**(1) (No. 5) : 90

picta, *Aranea*, Razoumowsky, 1789, *Hist. nat. Jorat.* : 242

picta, *Aranea*, Walckenaer, 1802, *Faune paris.* 2 : 207

sisyphius, *Araneus*, Clerck, [1758], *Aran. svec.* : 54

Theridio Simon, 1864, *Hist. nat. Araignées* : 165

Theridion Walckenaer, 1805, *Tabl. Aran.* : 72

Theridium Leach (W.E.), 1824, *Ency. brit. Suppl. 4th-6th Eds.*
1(2) : 438

75. Selection of a type species for a nominal genus : The following is the reference for the selection of a type species for a nominal genus specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

For <i>Enoplognatha</i> Pavesi (P.),	Pavesi (P.), 1870, <i>Ann. Mus.</i>
1880, <i>Rend. real. Inst. Lombardo</i>	<i>Stor. nat. Genova</i> 15 (for
<i>Sci. Lett.</i> (2) 13 : 192	1879—1880) : 325

76. Original References for Family-Group Names : The following are the original references for the family-group names placed by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* on the *Official List* or, as the case may be, on the *Official Index* of names for taxa belonging to the family-group category :—

THERIDIIDAE (correction of THERIDIIDES) Sundevall (J.C.), 1833,
Conspectus Arachnidum : 15

THERIDIIDES Sundevall (J.C.), 1833 (an Invalid Original Spelling
for THERIDIIDAE)

THERIDIONIDAE Simon, 1881, *Ins. Arachn. France* 5(1) : 13

77. Compliance with Prescribed Procedures : The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

78. "Opinion" Number : The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Five Hundred and Seventeen (517) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-First day of January, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING